

Hafa Adai!

72 students earn global certificates. **PAGE 3**
Emergency water outages on Saipan last night. **PAGE 6**

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902 report now with Congress

By JON PEREZ
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REPORTER

It is now up leaders of U.S. Congress to act on the CNMI's concerns that were discussed in the six-part 902 talks after both panels—the federal and CNMI government's sides—transmitted their final report to congressional leaders yesterday. The report's recommendations focused on immigration and labor issues, and the U.S. military's proposed activities in the CNMI.

See 902 on Page 4



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

U.S. Special Representative Esther Kia'aina and Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands Special Representative Gov. Ralph DLG Torres at the White House Eisenhower Executive Office Building, Washington, D.C., at the first 902 Consultations meeting, June 6, 2016.

INSIDE



NATION

President Barack Obama grants clemency to Chelsea Manning.

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FOCUS

In Africa, President Barack Obama's presidency couldn't help but be personal.

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LIFE & STYLE

Less than 48 hours before leaves office, CNN will air a tribute to President Obama.

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TAGA SPORTS JANUARY - MARCH 2017 EDITION

It is now up leaders of U.S. Congress to act on the CNMI's concerns that were discussed in the six-part 902 talks after both panels—the federal and CNMI government's sides—transmitted their final report to congressional leaders yesterday. The report's recommendations focused on immigration and labor issues, and the U.S. military's proposed activities in the CNMI.

See 902 on Page 4

500-lb WWII bomb dug up



By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

A 500-lb aircraft bomb was safely dug up yesterday morning from an ongoing sewerline project of the Commonwealth Utilities Corp. on the shoulder of Isa Drive near the Mobil gas station in Chalan Kiya.

See BOMB on Page 4

DEREK GERSONDE

U.S. Navy Explosive Ordnance Disposal technicians safely pull out yesterday a 500-lb aircraft bomb that was found 10 feet underground by construction workers of the Commonwealth Utilities Corp.'s ongoing sewerline project on the shoulder of Isa Drive near the Mobil gas station in Chalan Kiya. The bomb was relocated to the bomb pit in Marpi.

CHCC: Ready to move forward

Despite their objections, staff and management of the Commonwealth Health Center expressed themselves ready to move forward and work on the next steps to implement Public Law 19-78.

The new law repeals and reenacts the 2011 law that established the Commonwealth Healthcare Corp., which runs CHC. Among many other changes to the law, PL 19-78 establishes a board to govern, manage, and

control the corporation.

Gov. Ralph DLG Torres enacted House Bill 19-186 HD1 into Public Law 19-78 on Saturday, Jan. 14, 2017, with reservations.

According to Dr. Ngoc-Phuong Luu, Medical Director of the Divi-

See CHCC on Page 4

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GOT A NEWS TIP?



Local

ERWIN ENCINARES

From left Marianas Visitors Authority board members Nick Nishikawa and Jerry Tan, acting governor Arnold Palacios, HK Express general manager Sherman Luk, Hotel Association of the Northern Mariana Islands chair Gloria Cavanagh, Tom Liu, and MVA managing director Chris Concepcion pose for a photo yesterday, after the HK Express inaugural flight.

HK Express makes its inaugural flight from HK

By ERWIN ENCINARES

erwin_encinare@saipantribune.com

REPORTER

A low-budget airline company now offers low cost flights to and from Hong Kong.

HK Express Airways made its inaugural flight to Saipan yesterday and promised to provide discounts every week.

HK Express Airways flies to 26 different destinations across Asia and is based in Hong Kong.

HK Express general manager Sherman Luk said their entry to Saipan signifies "the beginning of a new area of new low fares, of incremental traffic between Saipan and Hong Kong."

In a press conference later that day, Luk said that within the short span of three years, their airline has carried 6 million passengers to their network of 26 destinations.

Luk said he was excited with Saipan, seeing as the inaugural flight at 4am yesterday morning was nearly full.

"I can assure you that [this flight] is not an exception because our year-round load factors are always over 90 percent full," said Luk. HK Express is "at least 50 percent cheaper than our competitors serving Saipan today."

Luk said HK Express offers lower costs so that tourists may enjoy the destination more with the money they save with the fare.

"We believe that by offering lower fares, we allow both the Saipan public and the people of Hong Kong and China to travel more frequently, bring their families along, and to spend more money on the ground destinations, benefitting the economies we serve," he said.

Acting governor Arnold Palacios looks forward to HK Express' continued flights to the CNMI.

"We would do everything we can and I am very confident that Marianas Visitors Authority, Hotel Association of the Northern Mariana Islands, and all the other tour agencies and tour partners will do everything we can to make sure our visitors that you bring have a great experience in the CNMI," said Palacios.

Luk said HK Express has weekly sales, which makes Hong Kong a "perfect weekend getaway."

In commemoration of the new destination, HK Express would be offering an introductory sale for one-way flights to Hong Kong at a price of \$76. The same prices would apply for trips going back to Saipan, totaling \$152 for a roundtrip ticket to Hong Kong. The promo ends at Feb. 17 and is available for travels only up to July 2017.

For more information, log on to HKExpress.com.

Another company intervenes in Yamamoto suit to collect \$165K

Rota Terminal & Transfer Co. Inc. asked the U.S. District Court for the NMI yesterday to allow it to intervene in Japanese investor Takahisa Yamamoto's lawsuit against Lt. Gov. Victor Hocog and the owners/operators of cargo ship M/V *Luta*.

Rota Terminal, through Janet H. King, claims that M/V *Luta* owes the company \$165,766 in services, costs, fees, and interest.

King said that from March 17, 2016, to Oct. 31, 2016, Rota Terminal performed stevedoring services, agency services, notice of arrival clear-

ances, vessel clearances, cargo clearances, government clearances, cargo booking services, and administrative services for M/V *Luta*.

"Rota Terminal brings this action in order to recover amounts indisputably due and owing for the supply of these necessities," King said.

King said the services and goods supplied to M/V *Luta* by Rota Terminal allowed the ship to deliver cargo throughout the region.

King said payment of the invoices totaling \$110,511 is now due and owing. (Ferdie De La Torre)

	3D/2N PACKAGE		4D/3N PACKAGE	
	1 PAX TOTAL	2 PAX TOTAL	1 PAX TOTAL	2 PAX TOTAL
Manila Area				
Golden Phoenix	\$628.27	\$1,097.27	\$676.19	\$1,145.19
Hotel Jen	\$639.93	\$1,108.93	\$699.50	\$1,168.50
City of Dreams	\$739.64	\$1,208.64	\$848.42	\$1,317.42
Makati				
St. Giles	\$606.26	\$1,075.26	\$648.99	\$1,117.99
Hotel Celeste	\$661.94	\$1,130.94	\$731.87	\$1,200.87
New World Hotel	\$735.76	\$1,204.76	\$843.24	\$1,312.24
BGC				
F1 Hotels & Resorts	\$668.42	\$1,137.42	\$742.23	\$1,211.23
Shangrila at the Fort Complex	\$971.45	\$1,440.45	\$1,196.78	\$1,665.78
Ortigas				
Eastwood Richmond	\$690.43	\$1,159.43	\$774.61	\$1,243.61
Edsa Shangrila	\$761.66	\$1,230.66	\$882.09	\$1,351.09
Quezon City				
Microtel Acropolis	\$633.45	\$1,102.45	\$708.56	\$1,177.56
Novotel Manila Araneta Center	\$668.42	\$1,137.42	\$742.23	\$1,211.23

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72 students earn global certificates

By ERWIN ENCINARES
erwin_encinaires@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

A total of 72 students graduated Tuesday night with globally recognized certificates to beef up their qualifications for future job opportunities.

The students received certificates signifying their completion of the Fall 2016 Hotel and Hospitality Certification Course offered by Latte Training Academy in partnership with American Hotel and Lodging Educational Institute and Island Training Solutions.

Jim Arenovski, owner of Island Training Solutions, said the program's graduates are more likely to land a job before even graduating from high school.

"These people spent nine extra hours in their week. Most of these kids are graduating. About 30 percent of these graduates already have jobs; they were hired as they were doing their job shadowing," said Arenovski.

The courses are taken while the student attends regular school. They set aside nine hours per week to focus on the certification course.

"It's a good sign for [employers], these graduates are willing to put in an extra effort," said Arenovski.

Latte Training Academy executive director Arielle Buyum said the new graduates took time away from their friends "and all the activities so important to a young high school student simply to focus on preparing themselves for their future."

"These students have dem-

Former cop in extortion case hires lawyer; jury trial reset

The Superior Court reset yesterday the jury trial of Travis Dela Cruz Iglesias, a former police officer who allegedly pulled over a vehicle for a traffic violation and is accused of threatening to jail the female driver if she would not have sex with him or pay him \$300 cash.

At a pre-trial conference, the 24-year-old Iglesias appeared with his newly hired counsel, Joaquin Torres.

The court previously appointed attorney Vicente Salas as counsel for the defendant.

With Torres as the new counsel for Iglesias, Associate Judge Joseph N. Camacho vacated the Iglesias' trial that was originally set for Feb. 21, 2017, and reset it to April 10, 2017, at 9am.

Assistant attorney general Betsy Weintraub appeared for the government.

The Office of the Attorney General charged Iglesias with theft by extortion, false arrest, and misconduct in office.



ERWIN ENCINARES

Graduates of the Latte Training Academy Fall 2016 Hotel and Hospitality Certification Course from Saipan Southern High School pose with their certificates of completion.

onstrated that they have the competencies and skills to effectively contribute to our hotel and hospitality industry as evidenced by their attainment of a globally recognized certification," she added.

Jeremy Manansala of Saipan Southern high School, 16, said: "I took food and beverage because it was my favorite. I really learned a lot from that course and I enjoyed my job shadowing."

Manansala job-shadowed at the Magellan Restaurant of Pacific Islands Club Saipan and expressed interest in working there.

"This is a good opportunity for me and for other students as well for a start in this industry," he added.



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CHCC**From Page 1**

sion of Public Health, "The history of difficulties with the CNMI's healthcare system spans decades, but we believe at the Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. that we have hit a tipping point and are finally moving forward. I just hope that PL 19-78 won't alter this trajectory."

Dr. John Tudela, director of Medical Affairs, added, "I'm uncertain about how this complete overhaul of the laws under which we

operate will affect us. However, we will do our best to respectfully and patiently communicate to the board... the intricacies of the CHCC's operations, and we hope the new board extends to us the same courtesy."

At the Dec. 6, 2016, Senate session, senators acknowledged that there are significant deficiencies in the bill. Many senators made public assurances that amendments will be made by the 20th Legislature to remedy these deficiencies before voting unanimously to pass the bill.

"We brought attention to legitimate issues with the

bill to the Senate, so members made promises to make amendments as soon as possible after they passed it. It seems counter-intuitive to do it this way, but we're eager to begin working with the 20th Legislature on these improvements as soon as possible," said Kaitlyn Neises, special assistant for Policy, Sustainability, and Development.

The law stipulates a six-month transition period after the board is "fully organized." The governor has yet to assign new board members for the hospital. The previous board is ef-

fectively dissolved. During this period, the new board members are to familiarize themselves with the management process and programs of the corporation. At the end of the six-month period, the management and control of the corporation is to be transferred to the board.

"We had reservations on the bill, but it has passed, so we are looking to move forward. We will continue to work toward providing better health care; in spite of interludes, we will not quit. We believe that an excellent healthcare system and a healthy population is pos-

sible in the CNMI. We won't stop aspiring toward these

goals," said CHCC CEO Esther Muna. (*Saipan Tribune*)

BOMB**From Page 1**

The ordnance was dug up and assessed at 10:30am. It was secured and subsequently relocated to the bomb pit in Marpi at 12:40pm, according to Department of Fire and Emergency Medical Services spokesman Derek Gersonde.

The Department of Public Safety contacted DFEMS on Saturday about the bomb that was dug up 10 feet underground near the gas station

by Hong Ye Construction workers, who were doing CUC's sewerline project in the area.

Gersonde said DFEMS, in partnership with the U.S. Navy Explosive Ordnance Disposal technicians out of Guam, Department of Public Safety, the Office of Homeland Security, and Hong Ye Construction workers retrieved the bomb.

After the bomb was discovered on Saturday, police officers were seen watching the site for safety.

902**From Page 1**

Island officials are hoping that a GOP-dominated Congress would act favorably on their concerns, especially after the Republicans regained the White House with the election of businessman and reality show host-turned-politician Donald J. Trump to the presidency.

Both panels agreed to address the current labor and immigration issue concerning the CNMI-Only Transitional Worker Visa program, which expires in two years. The issue needs immediate action as workers are in great demand, with the CNMI economy showing great improvement after years of negative development.

Some of the issues that both panels agreed to recommend for immediate action are:

- extending the CW1 program beyond 2019;
- raising the CW1 numerical limit of foreign workers allowed in the CNMI to 18,000;
- considering the use of immigration policies to address labor shortages in the CNMI and Guam; and
- extending the eligibility of the federal workforce development program in the CNMI;

Providing permanent immigration status for long-term guest workers could be the most contentious among the eight recommendations made by both panels on the 902 report.

A lot of foreign workers, many of whom have spent most of their lives in the Commonwealth, have been pushing for an improved immigration status, even if it is CNMI-only residency.

Local officials have recommended an improved status for guest workers that have been here for more than 10 years. If granted, that would free these work-

ers from the CW1 program, thus giving their slots to incoming personnel that would be under the transitional visa workforce.

Military activities

Both panels agreed to the creation of a CNMI-Department of Defense Coordinating Council to improve the communication and relationship between the local government and the Department of Defense.

Furthermore, the council would address the issues the CNMI raised during meetings with DoD officials on required environmental analysis processes, giving territorial leaders an avenue to engage in direct communication bridging agreements and resolving issues.

Inconsistencies between the CNMI Joint Military Training and the Commonwealth Covenant, and the technical and 1983 lease agreements; the CJMT's potential impact on the CNMI's economy; ensuring the CNMI's participation in decision making; and appropriate compensation for military activity on Farallon de Medinilla were the issues the CNMI panel focused on.

Both panels also reviewed the history of military activities in the CNMI, the original plans for Tinian, and other DoD projects including the military's relocation, training, and testing projects in Guam and the CNMI; the United States Air Force's divert plans; and CJMT.

Reactions

U.S. Special Representative Esther Kia'aina, who would step down as Assistant Secretary for Insular Areas when the Trump administration takes over, said she was honored to represent the U.S. federal government and lead the meetings on Washington's side. She also lauded the final outcome of the 902 talks.

"This joint report reflects the strength of the U.S.-

CNMI relationship and will provide federal policymakers in the Executive Branch and Congress with a roadmap on how to best address important issues that have a tremendous impact on the economy and overall well-being of the CNMI people," said Kia'aina in a statement.

Torres, who represented the CNMI side, also commended Kia'aina's effort. "It was truly an honor to work alongside my federal government counterpart in this significant endeavor for the people of the CNMI. I thank President Barack Obama for allowing the CNMI an opportunity to voice our concerns and have those concerns be incorporated into the report's final recommendations."

"This is an important and historic event in our relationship with the federal government and is one that will continue to provide for greater understanding of the critical issues facing the CNMI going forward," said Torres.

He said he pushed hard in order that the concerns on the CNMI's labor and immigration issues, and the U.S. military's presence in the Commonwealth, would be discussed in the 902 talks.

"Addressing the economic and workforce development interests of the CNMI, and working toward policies that treat our islands in a fair and equitable manner will require federal executive and/or legislative action before the expiration of the CW1 program on Dec. 31, 2019, in order to ensure the CNMI's economic stability," Torres said.

"Likewise, additional work will be needed to define a military presence in the CNMI that reflects the Commonwealth's commitment to a strong national defense but also respects our economic needs, our fragile ecosystem and our way of life."

He said CNMI officials

are now hoping leaders of Congress would consider the 902 report for possible action. "We are now able to present to the federal government a clearer picture of our positions regarding the proposed military projects on our islands as well as the current issues surrounding the CW program and our workforce to ensure the CNMI's best interests are known and reflected," he said.

Delegate Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan (Ind-MP) congratulated Torres and Kia'aina for the transmittal and the release of the 902 report.

"The recommendations they have made and the policy justifications the report puts forward will certainly be an important addition to the discussions that we are having here in Congress regarding immigration and labor issues in the Marianas," said Sablan.

CNMI Rep. Angel A. Demapan (R-Saipan), who was also part of the CNMI team in the 902 talks as then-chair of the House Federal and Foreign Affairs Committee in the 19th Legislature, he was also honored to be part of the meetings that has a significant impact on the Commonwealth.

"I'm grateful that this effort has provided us a real opportunity to speak for our people to the highest levels of the federal government and be heard. The issues raised during the many hours we spent in consultation are incredibly significant both in the economy and livelihood of all CNMI residents."

"It is certainly our hope that U.S. Congress would take the time to review the report and consider the concerns and recommendations raised. The challenges we face as an island community often get overshadowed by the policies of mainland U.S. We hope that through the 902 report, the needs of our Common-

wealth would be greater amplified and addressed in Washington, D.C."

Panel members

Kia'aina was appointed as the federal government's special representative to the 902 talks, with Torres leading the CNMI side.

DHS Assistant Secretary for Border, Immigration, and Trade Policy Seth Stodder, and Deputy Assistant Secretary Mary Giovagnoli; and Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense for Energy, Installations, and Environment Peter Potocny were also part of the U.S. team while secretaries Edith de Leon Guerrero (Labor) and Marianne Teregeyo (Public Lands) were also principal members of the CNMI panel.

Nikolao Pula (Office of Insular Affairs U.S. Department of the Interior director), Wendy Clerinx (Assistant Secretary for Insular Areas DOI advisor), Timothy Murphy (Office of the Solicitor DOI assistant solicitor), Philip Busch (Office of the Chief Counsel, U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services-DHS legislative counsel), Kevin Cummings (USCIS-DHS Business & Foreign Workers Office of Policy and Strategy chief), David Gulick (USCIS-DHS Honolulu District director), Steven Iselin (DoD Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary of the Navy for Energy, Installations, and Environment), Richard Hartley (DoD Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary of USAF for Installations, Environment, and Energy), Katherine Gayle von Eckartsberg (DoD Pacific Division Plans, Policy, and Operations U.S. Marine Corps director), Ginger Rice (DoD Basing Office of the Assistant Secretary of Defense for Energy, Installations and Environment assistant director), and Jennifer Mustain (DoD Deputy

Assistant Secretary of the Navy for Installations, Facilities, and Basing) were the other members of the federal panel.

Then-Senate vice president Arnold I. Palacios (R-Saipan), mayors Joey San Nicolas (Tinian) and Efraim Atalig (Rota), governor's chief of staff Matthew De Leon Guerrero, governor's legal counsel Wesley Bogdan, CNMI outside counsel Matthew Adams, Saipan Chamber of Commerce's Alex Sablan, and University of California law professor Rose Cuisin Villazor also represented the CNMI.

Part of US-CNMI Covenant

The talks sprang from Section 902 of the Covenant that established the CNMI's political union with the U.S. federal government. The 902 talks started on June 6 last year at the White House and included a series of meetings in Hawaii and the CNMI that included site visits on Saipan, Tinian, and Pagan in the following months.

The site visits were made to give the federal group firsthand information and the chance to assess the situation on issues that the CNMI panel was pushing for. Businesses and construction sites that were affected by the limited number of foreign workers under the CW1 program, areas where planned military activities will be held, and a historic visit on Pagan were part of the trip.

Special representatives saw the current situation of the CNMI workforce issues as well as the economic challenges faced by the local government, private sector, and its people.

This is the first known report, which is the culmination of almost one year of consultations and meetings, that reached the President and was transmitted to Congress.



2ND TIMMY WOULD GO MEMORIAL

Imperial Pacific International, Ltd., through its Corporate Social Responsibility department, is supporting the 2nd Timmy Would Go Memorial, an ocean event for all ages and the first of its kind with both outrigger and stand-up paddle board races. This will take place on Jan. 28 and 29. Late yesterday afternoon, IPI-CSR executive director Geri Dela Cruz and her team led the donation of \$1,000 to the Napu Outrigger Canoe Club, which is hosting the event with Stand Up Paddle Saipan. The CSR team will also be donating banners, refreshments, and manpower for the event.

'Land mobile app small investment, huge gains'

By JON PEREZ
jon_perez@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Guam Sen. William M. Castro said the land mobile app that he presented last month to several CNMI officials is a small investment with huge gains to be reaped by the Commonwealth government. He developed the app when he was the acting chief technical officer of Guam's Bureau of Statistics and Plans.

"It is really a small investment when you're talking about the thousands of people who would gain access to the information provided on the app. The return on investment would be huge since that small investment has the opportunity to generate money," added the former senior staff of Guam Gov. Eddie B. Calvo.

The former BSP director said the app costs \$10,000 to \$30,000 to make but could generate a profit of more than \$100,000. "Let's say you want to buy a copy of the certificate of land title, you could order that from this land app once it is finally matured."

"That would cost you \$15.99. Imagine if 10,000 people ordered that kind of information, you're talking about over \$150,000 in revenue. You just earned back your money in less than four years," he added.

He said that the app is al-

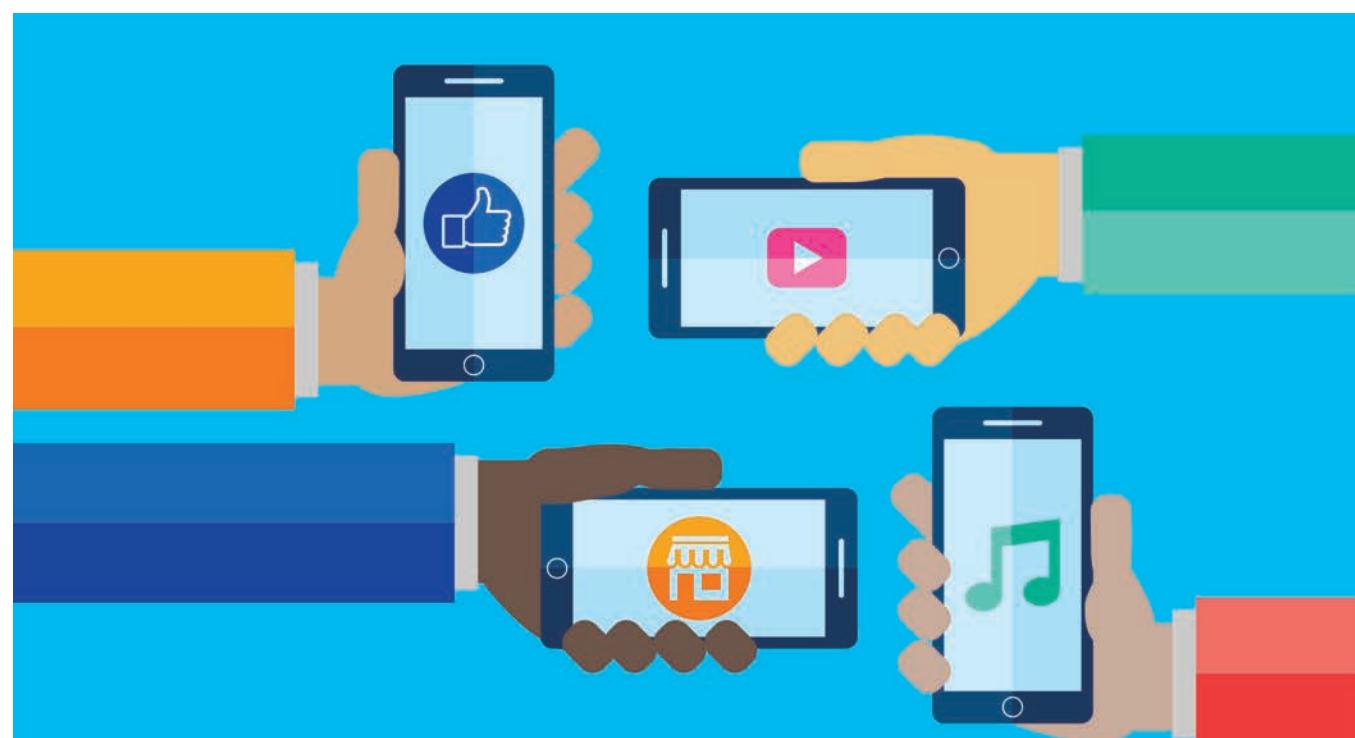
most like Google Maps but the latter would not tell you who owns the lot and how much it is appraised for. "It is a pretty cheap and very simple app, unlike others. Hopefully, in less than two years it would also be available here in the CNMI."

Castro said that someone from the CNMI should push for this project really hard in order for it to materialize. "You need to have a champion. An important ingredient for this to succeed is to have a champion."

He added that the CNMI has champions with Gov. Ralph DLG Torres, Lands and Natural Resources Secretary Richard B. Seman, and Reps. Ivan A. Blanco (R-Saipan), Edwin K. Propst (Ind-Saipan), and Vinson F. Sablan (Ind-Saipan).

"The governor likes the idea and Secretary Seman is another person that wants the project to push through. Secretary Seman is asserting himself locally and you need someone in the government to buy in, not only the money, but buy it in heart and mind to make it work."

He said it was Seman and Propst who invited him to share the technology while he also showed how the app works to Blanco when the former press secretary visited him in Guam a few months ago.



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VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENTS

Re-Announcement No. 15-012

POSITION TITLE: Instructor, Hospitality/Tourism
Department: Business
Pay Level & Step: 32/01 – 32/02
Annual Salary: \$41,527.83 – \$42,981.30
Location: As Terlaje Campus
Opening Date: 1/11/2017
Closing Date: 1/21/2017 or Until Filled

Re-Announcement No. 16-001

POSITION TITLE: Program Coordinator I (Institutional Marketing)
Department: External Relations Office
Pay Level & Step: 20/01 – 20/02
Annual Salary: \$24,330.79 – \$25,182.37
Location: As Terlaje Campus, Saipan
Opening Date: 1/12/2017
Closing Date: Until Filled

Re-Announcement No. 16-012

POSITION TITLE: Director, Library Programs & Services
Department: Library Programs & Services
Pay Level & Step: 33/01-35/02
Annual Salary: \$45,314.54 – \$51,609.41
Location: As Terlaje Campus, Saipan
Opening Date: 11/09/2016
Closing Date: Until Filled

Announcement No. 16-031

POSITION TITLE: Clinical Instructor, Nursing
Department: Nursing
Pay Level & Step: 30/01 – 31/02
Annual Salary: \$38,394.81 – \$39,738.63
Location: As Terlaje Campus, Saipan
Opening Date: 11/09/2016
Closing Date: Until Filled

Re-Announcement No. 16-034

POSITION TITLE: Program Manager I (UCEDD)
Department: Administration and Resource Development
Pay Level & Step: 28/01 – 28/02
Annual Salary: \$35,674.68 – \$36,923.30
Location: As Terlaje Campus, Saipan
Opening Date: 1/11/17
Closing Date: 1/21/17 or Until Filled

Announcement No. 16-041

POSITION TITLE: Coordinator, Distance Learning Education
Department: Academic Programs & Services
Pay Level & Step: 32/01 – 32/02
Annual Salary: \$43,197.84 – \$44,709.77
Location: As Terlaje Campus, Saipan
Opening Date: 12/09/2016
Closing Date: Until Filled

Announcement No. 16-042

POSITION TITLE: Department Chair II
Department: Sciences, Math, Health, and Athletics
Pay Level & Step: 34/01 – 34/02
Annual Salary: \$49,356.09 – \$51,083.56
Location: As Terlaje Campus, Saipan
Opening Date: 12/9/2016
Closing Date: Until Filled

Announcement No. 16-047

POSITION TITLE: Counselor (Early Intervention)
Department: Counseling Programs & Services
Pay Level & Step: 29/01 – 29/02
Annual Salary: \$40,567.11 – \$41,986.96
Location: As Terlaje Campus, Saipan
Opening Date: 12/20/2016
Closing Date: Until Filled

Announcement No. 17-001

POSITION TITLE: Coordinator, Prior Learning
Department: Academic Programs and Services
Pay Level & Step: 32/01 – 32/02
Annual Salary: \$43,197.84 – \$44,709.77
Location: As Terlaje Campus, Saipan
Opening Date: 1/03/2017
Closing Date: Until Filled

Announcement No. 17-002

POSITION TITLE: Instructor, Science
Department: Sciences, Mathematics, Health, & Athletics
Pay Level & Step: 32/01 – 32/02
Annual Salary: \$41,527.83 – \$42,981.30
Location: As Terlaje Campus, Saipan
Opening Date: 1/3/2017
Closing Date: Until Filled

Announcement No. 17-003

POSITION TITLE: Chief Financial Officer
Department: Office of the President
Pay Level & Step: Ungraded Annual Salary: \$50,000.00 - \$60,000.00 (Depending on Qualification)
Location: As Terlaje Campus, Saipan
Opening Date: 1/10/2017
Closing Date: 1/20/2017 or Until Filled

Announcement No. 17-004

POSITION TITLE: Personnel Specialist III
Department: Human Resource Office
Pay Level & Step: 32/01-32/02
Annual Salary: \$43,197.84 – \$44,709.77
Location: As Terlaje Campus, Saipan
Opening Date: 1/11/2017
Closing Date: 1/21/2017 or Until Filled

Applications must be submitted by 4:30 pm on the closing date. If there are no qualified applicants or the set of qualified applicants is deemed an insufficient pool, the closing date will be extended for two-week periods for further submission and review of applications until the search is closed. Deadlines that fall on a non-business day will be extended to the next business day. All salaries are subject to availability of funds. The College is an Equal Opportunity Employer.

Emergency water outages on Saipan last night

There was an emergency water service interruption in the As Matuus area last night due to a booster pump motor electrical failure.

Water operations personnel were making the necessary repairs and expected to complete work last night at 8pm. Commonwealth Utilities Corp. customers in the affected areas should expect restoration of regular water service.

At the same time, there was an emergency water service interruption in the Chalan Laulau, Middle Road and Beach Road areas last night due to a 16-inch water main

break fronting the Veterinarian's Hospital in Chalan Laulau. Water operations personnel were working with IT&E cable locators for the assessment of cable lines within the work site before repairing the damaged water line. Work was expected to be completed midnight last night and customers in the affected areas should expect restoration of regular water service soon. For the safety of CUC men and women working at the site, motorists are advised to proceed with caution and take alternative routes when traveling by the area.

CUC continues to work diligently to minimize any inconvenience to its customers. For more information, contact the CUC Customer Call Center

(664-4282) or monitor its Facebook page for the latest updates (<https://www.facebook.com/CommonwealthUtilitiesCorporation/>). (CUC)

Motheread Fatheread offers Literary Carnival 2017

CNMI Motheread Fatheread will be offering Carnival of Literacy 2017 at seven schools and the Joeten-Kiyu Public Library from January to March this year.

The carnival is composed of free family literacy classes that are facilitated through the lending of books and learning new strategies and techniques on reading to children. It includes Family Adult Course and Children's Story Exploring Class, which is for ages 4 years old and 11 years old.

San Vicente (Jan. 4 and Feb. 22), Gregorio T. Camacho (Feb. 2 and March 23), Oleai (January and March), William S. Reyes (Jan. 10 and Feb. 28), Koblerville (Jan. 10 and Feb. 28), Kagman (Jan. 18 and March 8),

and Garapan (January and March) elementary schools are the school venues, while JKPL will hold its own carnival on Jan. 21 and March 8.

Save for JKPL, all carnival events start at 5:30pm. JKPL's events begin at 2:30pm.

For more information on Carnival of Literacy 2017, contact CNMI Motheread Fatheread at cmmimotheread@gmail.com or call the Joeten Kiyu Public Library at 235-7398/8542.

The CNMI Motheread Fatheread Family Literacy Program is administered by the Northern Marianas Humanities Council in partnership with the CNMI Public School System and the Joeten-Kiyu Public Library. (Mark Rabago)

PUBLIC NOTICE

AMENDMENT #1

Pursuant to 1 CMC § 9910(a), the Fifteenth CNMI State Board of Education hereby gives notice that there will be a Regular Board Meeting on Monday, January 23, 2017 at 8:00 a.m. at the Office of the Commissioner Conference Room, Building 1211, Capitol Hill, Saipan.

AGENDA¹

I. Preliminary

1. Call to Order
2. Roll Call
3. Adoption of Agenda
4. Adoption of Minutes
 - a. October 12, 2016 Regular Board Meeting
 - b. October 19, 2016 Special Board Meeting Work Session
 - c. November 3 & 9, 2016 Special Board Meeting
 - d. November 18, 2016 Special Board Meeting
 - e. December 15, 2016 Special Board Meeting
 - f. January 9, 2017 Special Board Meeting (14th)
 - g. January 9, 2017 Swearing-In Meeting (15th)

II. Public Comments²

III. Reports

1. Chair
2. Board Committees
 - a. CIP
 - b. FPA
 - c. ISA
 - d. LIA
 - e. SICPP
 - f. SARC
3. Teacher Representative
4. Commissioner of Education
 - a. Goals and Objectives for 2017
 - b. Financial Status Reports
 - i. Federal
 - ii. Local
 - c. Head Start Program
 - d. Office of Curriculum & Instruction
 - e. Student Representative
 - f. Others

IV. Unfinished Business

V. New Business

1. Part B (Special Education) Annual Performance Report (APR)
2. Proposed Budget for FY'18
3. Proclamation of Counselors Month – February
4. Revised Organizational Chart
5. Certification and Licensure Matters
 - a. CLO Report No. 2017-001

VI. Executive Session³

1. Legal Updates
2. Personnel/Certification
3. Other matters

VII. Discussion of Agenda for next Board meeting

VIII. Adjournment

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Kagman schools PTSA meeting today

This is to inform all parents, guardians, and the community that the Kagman cluster schools will be having a PTSA meeting today Jan. 19, 2017, at 5pm at the Kagman Elementary School cafeteria. We are encouraging all parents, and guardians to attend this meeting. Please call the school at 237-3921 or 664-4100 for more information. (PR)

Benefits outreach for veterans today

The U.S. Department of Veterans Benefits Administration (non-health) will be conducting a veterans benefits outreach today, Jan. 19, 2017, from 9am to 3pm, at the Saipan VA Outreach Clinic, MH II Building, Suite 206, Marina Heights Business Park in Garapan. This will be a one-on-one outreach. Chris Duenas, legal administrative specialist, will be available to answer your benefits questions and take your claims. Any questions regarding this visit, contact Ruth Coleman, 322-0035 or Duenas at 1-671-648-0090. (PR)

After-school program at Kagman center

The Family & Youth Enhancement Program-Youth Services Section of the Division of Youth Services offers an after-school program at the Kagman Community Center on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays from 2:30pm to 5:30pm. Aside from homework/school project sessions, the program also provides for youth prevention activities that focus on literacy, art and music, career opportunities and cultural demonstrations. (PR)

Air Force training at Farallon de Medinilla

ASAN, Guam—The U.S. Air Force will conduct training at the island of Farallon de Medinilla on Jan. 20 from 10am to 3pm. The public—especially fishermen, commercial pilots and marine tour operators—are advised to stay clear of the areas during the dates and times indicated. The general location of the training on the island of Farallon de Medinilla will be on a 12-nautical mile radius on all quadrants. (PR)

Rota urged to make homes energy-efficient

Staff from the Weatherization Assistance Program will be on Rota on Tuesday next week, Jan. 24, 2017, from 9am to 3pm at the Rota Mayor's Office to provide on-site assistance regarding the application process and the program services available to qualified low-income eligible residents. To avail of the program services, application forms are available at the Rota Mayor's Office or may be obtained online at www.cnmie-energy.com. For additional information, you may also contact 664-4480/4481, Monday through Friday, except weekends and holidays, from 7:30am to 11:30am and from 12:30pm to 4:30pm and ask for Christina Babauta. (PR)

¹ In the event that the items on the agenda are not completed, the meeting will recess and reconvene on the following day or at the most expeditious date and time determined by the Board.

² Pursuant to BOE Policy 0415, public comments are limited to 30 minutes. We ask that remarks be limited to 3 minutes each. Everyone is welcomed to submit written comments.

³ Pursuant to 1 CMC § 9912, the Board may vote to meet in executive session at any time.

MVA excited with launch of Duck Tours

By MARK RABAGO
mark_rabago@saipantribune.com
ASSOCIATE EDITOR

The Marianas Visitors Authority welcomed the entry of Saipan Duck Tours into the CNMI's tourism scene, saying it will be an added attraction for tourists and residents alike.

Small craft and high surf advisories

Based on information received from the National Weather Service in Tiyan, Guam, and compiled at the CNMI Emergency Operations Center State Warning Point, a building north swell is resulting in combined seas between 11 and 13 feet. Seas were supposed to peak yesterday and then gradually decline. Seas are expected to remain above advisory levels through early Friday morning.

A small craft advisory remains in effect until 6am tomorrow, Friday.

Northeast winds of 20 to 30 knots will continue within the Marianas waters. Starting today, the winds will begin to slowly subside.

A high surf advisory remains in effect until 6am Friday.

For north facing reefs, a large north swell will bring

MVA managing director Christopher Concepcion congratulated AquaDuck LLC during the company's formal launch of its Saipan Duck Tours operations during a ribbon cutting ceremony last Thursday at the Garapan Fishing Base.

The land and sea tour uses



Saipan Duck Tours uses a 27,000-lb amphibious vehicle based on World War II-era DUKW.

JON PEREZ

a 27,000-lb amphibious vehicle based on World War II-era DUKW.

"We're very excited about it. It's an added attraction for visitors here in the CNMI and Saipan in particular. Everybody asks for these types of new and fresh activities to do on Saipan and in the Marianas. This is one new attraction that will definitely be a big hit with our sources markets of Japan, China, and Korea," Concepcion said.

He also hopes AquaDuck LLC will join MVA.

"We've encouraged them

to become an MVA member, which will allow us to help them. As soon as they become an MVA member we will definitely partner with them to help promote their product," he said, adding that the company only needs to pay the \$100 annual fee to become a member.

"You get to be part of all of MVA's promotions. You also get first glance of the visitor arrival statistics and you get detailed membership reports every month that feature all new attractions like this. It's very reasonable at \$100 a year

and it gets you all these valuable information so you can plan and map out what direction your company is going," said Concepcion.

AquaDuck LLC president Eddie Yokeno said if his venture works out he would purchase two more vehicles.

"Once the operation is solid we will go on the second step by getting two more and expanding our operations," he said.

Yokeno said the launch of the Duck Tours is a testament to the CNMI's growing economy and fast-rising reputation

as a tourist destination.

With Imperial Pacific Resort adding 2,000 rooms to hotel occupancy, Yokeno sees an additional 4,000 potential customers.

He also welcomes the competition from Island Turtle Tours, which offers a similar service.

"I wish them well also. Competition is always good. There are a lot of tourists to go around. They have one Duck and we have two Ducks and we cannot duck the issue that we need more!" he said with a smile.



Grow with us!

TERMINAL OPERATOR

This is a regular full-time position responsible for supporting the Depot Manager and performs safe and efficient terminal operations, to include receiving, handling and storing of fuel products and addressing customer needs by complying with company guidelines and company procedures, as well as government regulations.

A qualified applicant will have at least five years experience in petroleum operations; excellent safety record; knowledge of mathematic applications and understanding of fuels chemistry basics; ability to detect and manage hazards; ability to work flexible hours; and possesses good interpersonal skills.

FUELS MAINTENANCE TECHNICIAN

The position is responsible for performing maintenance, service, and repairs of equipment at Retail and Commercial sites. Candidates should have knowledge in the maintenance field, possess excellent communication and organizational skills, and the ability to work flexible hours.

Interested applicants must have a minimum of five years of technical repairs and must be certified Level II or III with Gilbarco-VeederRoot systems.

Interested individuals who meet the above requirements should submit their resume no later than Friday, January 27, 2017. Resumes may be submitted to the attention of IP&E Human Resources Department via:

Office: KG Plaza Suite 100 Tamuning (Old DFS Plaza across LBJ Elementary School)
Email: HumanResourceTeam@ipehq.com
Mail to: IP&E Guam
643 Chalan San Antonio, Suite 100
Tamuning, Guam 96913

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Learn how to investigate discrimination complaints

The CNMI Chapter of the Society for Human Resource Management will be focusing on discrimination complaints at its first meeting for 2017.

The January SHRM meeting will also include a brief ceremony for the recognition and installation of the SHRM CNMI Chapter's 2017 board of directors. The Eucon International University will also highlight its upcoming hospitality training program.

The lunch meeting will be held at the Pacific Islands Club Charley's on Friday, Jan. 27, 2017, from 11:30am to 1:30pm. This meeting is on Friday, not the normal Thurs-

day schedule.

The presentation includes the PIC lunch buffet at \$20 for SHRM members and \$30 for non-members. Seats are limited, so reserve your seat by contacting Penny Jones by e-mail at penny.jones@hyatt-saipan.com or by telephone at 323-5868.

Glenn A. Jewell at the Rexford C. Kosack Law Office will speak on how to properly conduct internal investigations of discrimination complaints. A graduate of George Washington University, Jewell began his association with the Commonwealth as an assistant attorney general from 1992 to

1993. He is a member of the CNMI Bar Association. Jewell will address the full process of handling an employee's discrimination complaint. He will provide guidance on establishing a workable complaint process, the value of a thorough initial review and the importance of selecting an experienced investigator, how to conduct the interview and evidence gathering process, prepare the report and take the appropriate action, if any is required. This program will be of special interest to all HR professionals and managers, providing them with guidance to help them deal with dis-

crimination complaints, when and if received.

The SHRM's CNMI Chapter board is composed of Esther Ada, president; Frank Ada, vice president; Denise Montenegro, treasurer; Catherine Cachero, secretary; Penny Jones, director/membership chair; Vanessa Deleon Guerrero, director/program chair; and Josephine Mesta, immediate past-president. Frank Gibson, founding member and first Chapter president, will conduct the installation.

Dr. Christian Wei, president of Eucon International University, will talk about the university's upcoming hospitality

training program with the Ching Kuo Institute of Management and Health from Taiwan. CKU will send an award winning team of trainers to conduct the Feb. 6-17 program here in the CNMI. Wei says that this is just the beginning of Eucon's contribution to provide higher education assistance to the tourism, hotel and restaurant business in the CNMI.

All presentations are open to the public and will be an invaluable opportunity for employers and HR professionals and staff to better understand the importance of handling discrimination complaints

properly. Jewell will provide an opportunity for questions.

SHRM is the world's largest association devoted to human resource management. The Society serves the needs of HR professionals and advances the interests of the HR profession. Founded in 1948, SHRM has more than 250,000 members in over 140 countries, and more than 575 affiliated chapters. The NMI Chapter is affiliated with the national organization. For more information about the NMI Chapter, you can visit their website at <http://nmi-chapter.shrm.org>. (PR)

Customs' training centered on taxing right

By JON PEREZ
jon_perez@saipantribune.com
 REPORTER

Finance Secretary Larrisa Larson said a huge part of the training of its personnel at the Division of Customs Services is to make sure the items in cargoes that enter the CNMI's ports are properly valued so they could also collect the right excise taxes.

"A lot of the taxes that we collect at the ports are a significant part of our revenue collection. We charge a lot of excise tax on items that come in the ports. These are items that were transported before they hit the stores, an initial source of revenue that we see right away," said Larson.

"But one of the things that we do at Customs is making sure the cargo is valued properly. So we need to make sure that what the people are declaring is an accurate representation of the items that they are bringing in."

Part of Customs officers' training is they are taught to determine the correct way of charging the goods so they could apply it in real work, and in return businesses that are bringing in the goods are fairly taxed.

"A lot of stuff that we do is to train them on basic customs operations, how to behave and be professional with their jobs, how to assess proper tax rates on the items that they check, and how to do inspection in each of the ports. This is done in a professional way that it won't be disruptive but still protect our borders," Larson said.

She said the division, which is headed by director Jose C. Mafnas, has come a long way in a short period of time. "I'm really proud of what they have become. We put them [officers] in rigorous training and we know that there are a lot of challenges that would come their way. Still, they have met all our expectations and I

know that we're going to see a lot of good things."

Larson added that they are still finishing up the report for fiscal year 2016 but they expect to see another increase in collection with the growth of economic activity on Saipan. Customs reported a 24.9 percent increase in its fiscal year 2015 collection, from \$32.5 million to \$43.3 million.

The more than \$10-million increase offset the decline in the government's other revenue categories.

Increased imports, interceptions, and re-evaluations of undeclared and undervalued taxable commodities, and an increase in collection on accounts with outstanding balances contributed to the rise.

The division, in charge of controlling the flow of goods

that enter the CNMI, graduated its sixth cycle last month, with officers undergoing separate training conducted by Superior Court Associate Judge Joseph N. Camacho and Oceania Customs Organization operations manager Tevita Tupu, respectively.

Money laundering, drugs, and human trafficking are among the challenges the division is facing right now.

NPS launches Rota study for possible inclusion in NPS system

The National Park Service announced yesterday the launch of a study of the unique natural and cultural resources of the island of Rota (Luta) in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

As directed by the U.S. Congress (P.L. 113-291 Section 3051, Dec. 19, 2014), the NPS is conducting a study of Rota's prehistoric and historic resources and limestone forests. The study will evaluate the national significance of the area and the suitability and feasibility of designating the area as a unit of the national park system. The study is expected to take two to three years to complete.

The NPS will be hosting public meetings in the CNMI and Guam as well as two online meetings to introduce the study, answer questions, and solicit public ideas and interests:

The first meeting on Saipan will be on Tuesday, Feb. 21, 2017, from 6pm to 8pm at the American Memorial Park Visitor Center Theater along Beach Road, Garapan.

The second meeting will be on Rota, on Wednesday, Feb. 22, 2017, from 6pm to 8pm, at the Rota Mayor's Office.

The third meeting will also be on Rota, on Thursday, Feb. 23, 2017, from 9am to 11am, at the Rota Mayor's Office.

In Guam, the meeting will be on Monday, Feb. 24, 2017, from 6pm to 8pm, at the Guam Museum auditorium and at 193 Chalan Santo Papa Juan Pablo Dos, Hagåtña.

The first virtual meeting is on Thursday, March 9, 2017, from 9am to 10:30am (Wednesday, March 8, 3pm-4:30pm PST). Go to www.gotomeeting.com, click on "Join Webinar" in the upper right, and enter Webinar ID: 210-509-451.

The second virtual meeting is on Friday, March 10, 2017, from 6am to 7:30am (Thursday, March 9, 12pm-1:30pm

PST). Go to www.gotomeeting.com, click on "Join Webinar" in the upper right, and enter Webinar ID: 879-835-067

Chamorro language translation will be provided at the Saipan and Rota meetings.

A special resource study evaluates the eligibility of an area to be designated as a national park or other special designation. As defined in the study legislation, the study focuses on the prehistoric, historic, and limestone forest sites on Rota. The National Park Service collects information about the quality of resources in the study area, evaluates the potential for visitor enjoyment and efficient management, and analyzes the feasibility and appropriateness of different management options including alternative ways that local, CNMI, federal, and private entities can

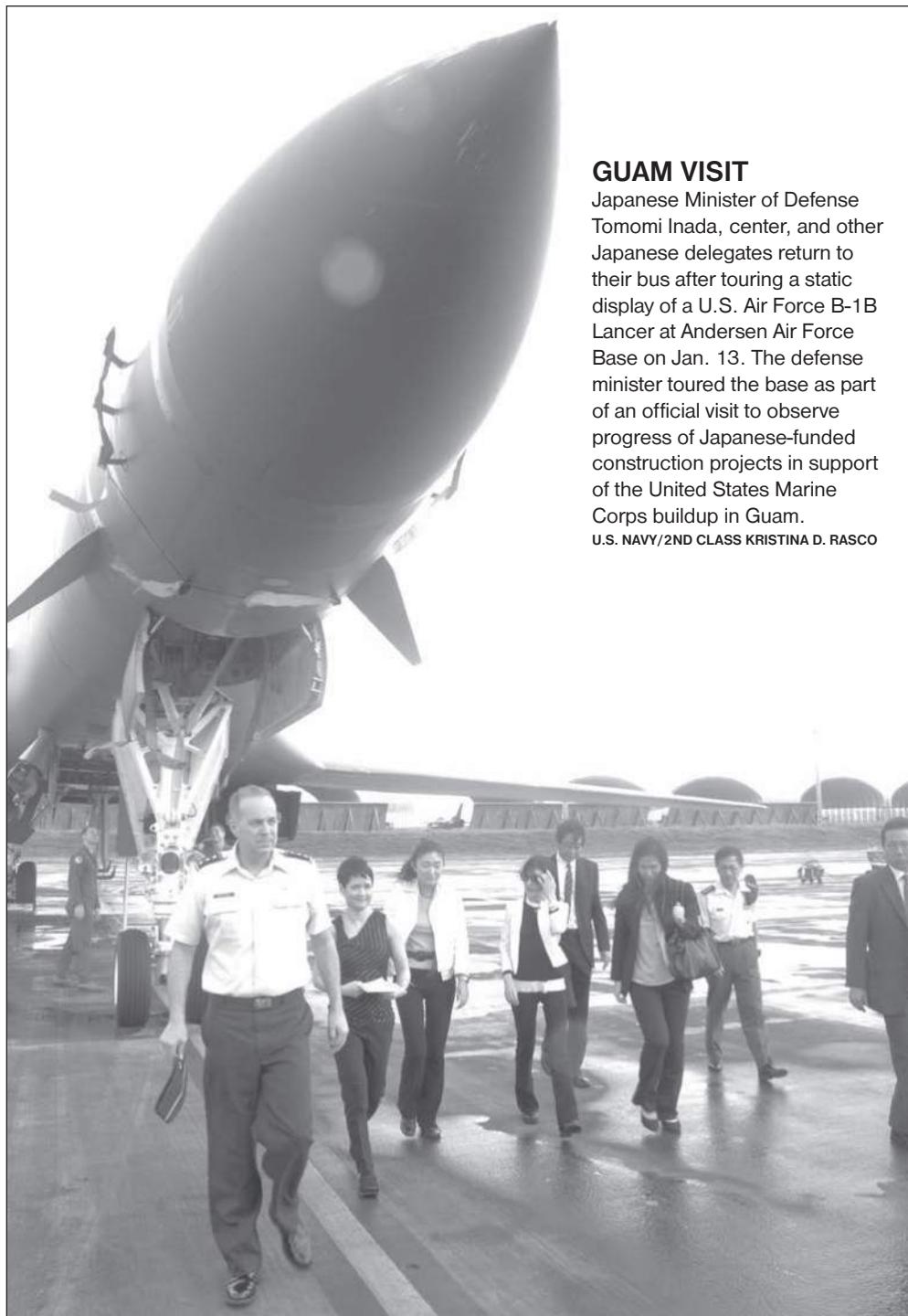
protect and interpret Rota's important places. The study will respect and retain the authorities of the CNMI government and private property owners.

The NPS provides its findings to the Secretary of the Interior. If the Rota study results in a recommendation from the Secretary of the Interior that areas of Rota warrant addition to the national park system, Congress may or may not act

on or follow the recommendation. Other outcomes of the study could include: no change from the existing management structure, local CNMI public and/or private management options, additional NPS technical assistance, or other local, national, or international designations.

For more information:

- contact Jean Boscacci, Project Manager at 415-623-2312
- e-mail the study team at Rota_study@nps.gov
- view the project web site at parkplanning.nps.gov/rotastudy. (NPS)



GUAM VISIT

Japanese Minister of Defense Tomomi Inada, center, and other Japanese delegates return to their bus after touring a static display of a U.S. Air Force B-1B Lancer at Andersen Air Force Base on Jan. 13. The defense minister toured the base as part of an official visit to observe progress of Japanese-funded construction projects in support of the United States Marine Corps buildup in Guam.

U.S. NAVY/2ND CLASS KRISTINA D. RASCO



MVA
Artists, calligraphers and designers from Korea visited Rota, Northern Mariana Islands for inspiration on Dec. 28-29, 2016.

Rota, Saipan highlighted in visiting artists' tour



MVA
Waves crashing on the reef on Rota are the subject for a visiting Korean artist on Dec. 28, 2016.



MVA
Artists from Korea captured various scenes on Rota and Saipan during the Marianas artistic familiarization tour organized by the Marianas Visitors Authority and Jin Air on Dec. 26-30, 2016, in the Northern Mariana Islands.



MVA
The Rota Swimming Hole makes a picturesque scene for a visiting Korean artist on Dec. 29, 2016.

The natural beauty and landscapes of the islands of Rota and Saipan were recently captured by 11 influential illustrators and calligraphers and two designers of sportswear brand Barrel in Korea during the Marianas artistic familiarization tour organized by the Marianas Visitors Authority and Jin Air.

While in the Northern Mariana Islands on Dec. 26-30, 2016, the artists drew inspiration from a variety of tropical vistas, generating creative content and generating buzz on SNS channels with their images.

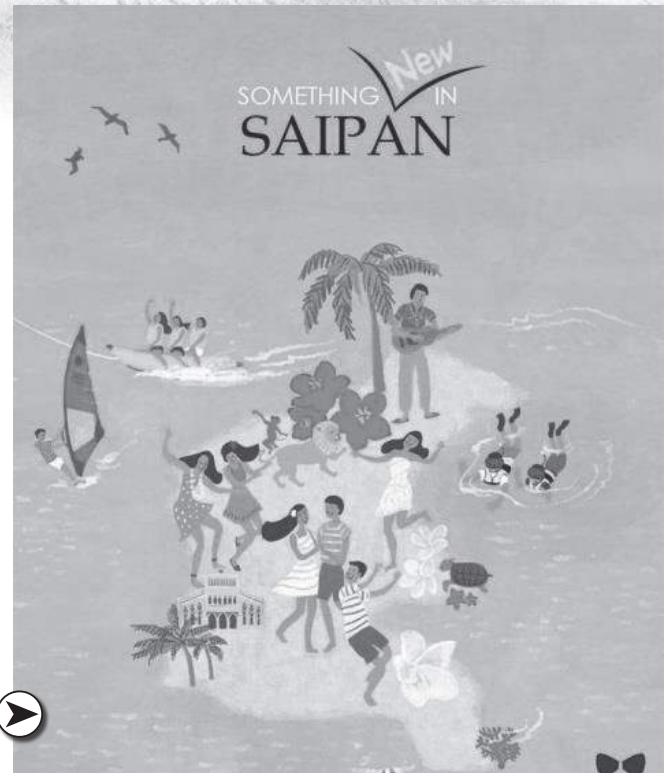
"All the artists expressed their enjoyment of the beautiful scenery of Rota and Saipan," said MVA acting managing director Judy Torres. "They also captured various tourism attractions which will be uploaded to their social

networking sites, including their personal blogs and Instagram accounts, as well as the MVA's social networking channels in Korea."

The tour, also documented by a videographer, covered a variety of settings: on Rota, Rota Swimming Hole, Song Song Village Lookout, stargazing, and a campfire; on Saipan, Sugar Dock, Ladder Beach, Obyan Beach, and a jungle tour.

The tour was also supported by Rota Resort & Country Club and Kensington Hotel Saipan, which provided discounted room rates. **(MVA)**

MVA
One of the images created by visiting Korea artists during the Marianas artistic familiarization tour on Dec. 26-30, 2016, in the Northern Mariana Islands.



MVA
The Marianas Visitors Authority and Jin Air hosted the Marianas artistic familiarization tour on Dec. 26-30, 2016, in the Northern Mariana Islands.

Opinion

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EDITORIAL

Mideast chat in Paris: The two-state solution is aired without players

Senior officials of some 70 countries and international organizations gathered in Paris on Sunday to try, one more time, to move forward the project to divide the area shared by Israelis and Palestinians into two states, living side by side in peace.

The putative hopelessness of the effort was underlined by the fact that neither the Israeli government led by Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu nor the Palestinian Authority led by acting President Mahmoud Abbas was represented at the Paris conference. Both are basically useless in a quest for an agreement and peace in that piece of the Middle East. Netanyahu leads an increasingly obdurate right-wing government, dominated by Orthodox Israelis and West Bank settlers or other Israelis who favor expansion of the illegal West Bank settlements. The mandate as PA president of Abbas, now 81, expired in 2009, eight years ago, and his credibility among Palestinians continues to decline.

In spite of Netanyahu's obstinacy and Abbas's flaccidity as a leader, there remain strong elements in Israel and continued militancy on the Palestinian side, in Gaza, the West Bank and among Palestinians in exile in other countries, to make it clear 69 years after Israel's declared independence that the Palestinians are not going to go away in their demand for a homeland for the some 12 million of them in the world.

The Paris conference Sunday made it clear that equally alive is a sense on the part of the international community that peace and stability will not come to that part of the Middle East until the Palestinians gain their state in a two-state resolution of the problem. The growing vigor of the Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions movement, founded in 2005, in the world sends the same message. No one is saying that Israelis should not have their state. What the world is saying, most recently in Paris Sunday, is that the Palestinians should also, and that the issue will not be settled and peace assured until that outcome is achieved.

Outgoing Secretary of State John F. Kerry represented the United States at the conference. One question very much up in the air at Paris was what will be the position of the new U.S. administration of President-elect Donald J. Trump on the Israeli-Palestinian question. It is widely expected that Trump will take an unshaded pro-Israeli posture after he is inaugurated on Friday. Americans should hope not: such a position will neither resolve the problem nor make it go away, whatever the political, logical or financial appeal this simple approach might have.

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KIRK

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FINALLY...
FAKE
NEWS THAT'S
HONEST.

Being prepared for emergencies is a long, hard grind

As America prepares for a new presidential administration, a major victory was just announced in the world of medical science that provides a reminder of the importance of the under-celebrated workhorse of dramatic outbreak stories: preparedness.

Toward the end of last year, an Ebola vaccine developed by a group of scientists was proven to be 100 percent effective during a trial in West Africa. Consequently, the inoculation quickly achieved fast-track status from the U.S. Food and Drug Administration. The next time the world confronts Ebola, one of the most terrifying viruses in history, we will be in a much better position to save lives.

Ebola remains a potential global public health threat. Thus, as a new presidential administration is about to take office, it is important not to draw the wrong lesson from the Ebola vaccine experience, or to take it for granted, either.

The scientists who developed the vaccine achieved a major scientific advancement that will change the face of Ebola forever, but this victory also underscores the value of preparedness. After all, the development of vaccines is not measured in weeks or months or even a year. It is a rigorous process that proceeds from test tubes, to animal models, to multiple phases of human trials -- typically over a period of many years. No vaccine magically appears before the credits roll, as is often the case in blockbuster films.

The virus killed more than 11,000 people in 2014, and terrorized countless others as it ripped through parts of West Africa, eventually traveling to the United States. Naturally, then, the world is cheering the spectacular vaccine results, which were so swift and dramatic -- almost as if plucked from a Hollywood movie script. However, it would be a mistake to believe that the path to success for this vaccine began in 2014, when the disease entered American hospitals and homes, or that it represents a typical battle in the war that is being fought every day against emerging infectious diseases.

Ebola was a well-characterized biological weapons threat for which a robust effort to produce a vaccine had been underway for more than a decade by the time the disease surfaced in the United States in 2014 -- the vaccine had even been used in a human years before the West African outbreak. Over time, it had been studied by experts who gained a deep base of knowledge about the vaccine and its potential promise. By 2014, the vaccine, developed by Merck and NewLink Genetics, was ready for

By AMESH ADALJA
The Philadelphia Inquirer



Amesh Adalja is a board-certified infectious disease physician at the Center for Health Security at the University of Pittsburgh. He blogs at www.trackingzebra.com and can be followed on Twitter @AmeshAA. He wrote this for The Philadelphia Inquirer.

larger human trials, which the West African outbreak provided.

By their very definition, emerging infectious diseases defy expectations -- just look at the global proliferation of the Zika or West Nile viruses. Without predictability, the ability to make vaccines, anti-infectives, and diagnostic tests is challenging, because the development process is always intensified and completed after a disease outbreak crosses an infection threshold high enough to spur action. It is usually only then that the race to combat the disease begins in earnest, by marshaling the requisite will to begin the long processes of developing new products and screening existing compounds, all while trying to anticipate what the next pandemic may be.

In many situations, any pharmaceutical relief may occur too late or not at all. During the 2009 H1N1 influenza pandemic, for instance, the development of vaccines progressed at almost unprecedented speed against a well-characterized threat and benefited from years of preparation for pandemic flu. Yet the efforts still resulted in a vaccine that was available only after the epidemic had peaked.

All this is a reminder that the business of preparing for unknown infectious disease threats is not really a business at all. In many cases, it is very akin to gambling over which threats to prepare for and which to ignore. This arduous process requires resources and continual support from policy makers, even in the midst of changing administrations and other global crises. The gamble is worth it though, because the stakes couldn't be higher: If left unprepared, the cascading effects of an unrestrained outbreak can lead to mass suffering, mass death, economic calamity and failed states.

See BEING on Next Page

EDITORIAL POLICY

Letters to the editor must include the NAME, VILLAGE ADDRESS, and CONTACT NUMBER of the contributor. Letters that do not have these information will immediately be trashed. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

Business scams

THE CONSUMER CAUTION CORNER

By MICHAEL J. CYGANEK
SPECIAL TO THE SAIPAN TRIBUNE

This week, the Office of the Attorney General's "Consumer Caution Corner" seeks to educate business owners about how to identify and protect themselves from common scams:

The Supply Swindle

Every company needs office supplies, but small businesses and non-profits may not have a formal procurement process in place. So when supplies show up at the door, employees pay for them, assuming a colleague must have OK'd the buy. The box contains unordered merchandise or maybe it's empty. Or a con artist may call, falsely claiming to verify an existing order. The next step: tricking an unsuspecting employee into saying yes. That triggers high-pressure threats if the business refuses to pay. Either way, the company is left holding the bag — and the bill.

The Check Cheat

Not all solicitations you get in the mail look like bills, invoices, or account statements. Your business may get something that looks like a refund or rebate check. Read the fine print on the front and back carefully. By cashing the check, you may be agreeing to be billed monthly for something you

do not want or need, like Internet access or a listing in an online directory. For more examples of frequent scams, please visit the Federal Trade Commission's website at <https://www.ftc.gov/tips-advice/business-center/guidance/small-business-scams#directory>.

How Can I Protect My Business?

Take the following steps to protect your company from this kind of fraud:

1. Train your staff. Educate your employees about how these scams work. In addition to your regular receptionist, talk to everyone who may pick up the phone. Put a copy of this article in employee mailboxes. Mention it in a staff meeting. Post it on the break room bulletin board or where employees clock in and out.

2. Inspect your invoices. Depending on the size and nature of your business, consider implementing a purchase order system to make sure you are paying only legitimate expenses. At a minimum, designate a small group of employees with authority to approve purchases and pay the bills. Train your employees to send all inquiries to this group. Compile a list of the companies you typically use for directory services, supplies, and other recurring expenses. Encourage the people who pay the bills to develop a "show me" attitude when it comes to unexpected invoices from companies they are not familiar with, even if those invoices list one of your employee's names. Do NOT pay for products or services you are not

sure you ordered.

3. Verify to clarify. If you get a message that looks to be from a bank, credit card company, or government agency, investigate before responding. Using a phone number you know to be legit, contact the office directly to ask if the inquiry is on the up and up. Furthermore, many business directory scam artists are headquartered in Canada or in other foreign countries, but use post office boxes or mail drops to make it look like they are in the U.S. Before paying, check them out for free at bbb.org, and read the BBB's report on them. (link is external)

4. File a complaint. File a complaint with the FTC at ftc.gov/complaint and with the BBB. If you think you have been victimized in a fraud scheme that involves the U.S. Mail, submit a Mail Fraud Complaint Form to the (link is external) U.S. Postal Inspection Service. Finally, alert the OAG.

Each week, the OAG's Consumer Protection Education Program aims to provide consumers and businesses with the "know-how" to identify and protect themselves from unfair trade practices and marketplace schemes. If you would like to file a Consumer Complaint, please pick up a Form at the OAG (in Capitol Hill) and then please submit it by email to consumer_counsel@cnmioag.org. We cannot act as your private attorney. If you need legal assistance, we will recommend that you contact a private attorney or legal aid organization. We cannot give legal advice or act as your private attorney.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Worried about Trump

Paul Craig Roberts, former Assistant Secretary of the Treasury under Reagan, recently expressed concern about Trump's welfare: that the CIA would try to assassinate him.

This surprised me. I'm aware that there are a lot of crazies who want Trump dead, but I hadn't considered the CIA. Still, Roberts' words were spoken with alarm and sincerity; he really believes that someone will try to take Trump out.

Despite his billions, Trump is not an elite. He is not connected to those who hold real power (such as the Rockefellers, the Bush family, or George Soros). Trump has no significant "bloodline" of nobility, and was never a member of the Skull and Bones (Yale) or Cap and Gown (Princeton); nor did he serve in the

U.S. military. He is a true outsider, and is widely perceived as a spoiled rich kid who got lucky.

On Inauguration Day (Friday), much of Washington, D.C. will be in lockdown. In addition to a formidable police and Secret Service presence, there will be hoards of bikers (whose stated mission is to preserve order) and God knows how many protesters. It will be turmoil in the capital for a few hours, and during that time Trump's life could be in danger, especially if Paul Craig Roberts is right.

Past presidents have boldly walked down Pennsylvania Avenue on their way to the White House. However, Trump will probably not do this; he has a super-fortified Cadillac, and this is smart—unless someone fires an RPG at the car. Frankly, I wish Trump would skip the festivities, stay indoors, and take the oath of office inside the Capital building. Even his appearance at three inaugural balls is risky.

What I don't understand is why so many millions of American

citizens are angry with Donald Trump, why people such as Rosie O'Donnell, Meryl Streep, and other celebs, harbor such vehemence against the president-elect. What did he ever do to them?

Many of the disgruntled anti-Trump protesters who disrupt the ceremony will reportedly receive cash, from \$200 up to \$1,400 (if the rumors are true). Anyhow, there will be a full-court press against Trump's swearing-in, and other presidential events.

Much ink has been spilt about some of Trump's cabinet choices, that three of the Cabinet positions have gone to people formerly with Goldman Sachs, as though Goldman Sachs was Lucifer in a corporate incarnation. But the Goldman Sachs appointments are a smart move on Trump's part, because many of these individuals are "connected" to the elites, and can help smooth the transition into a Trump administration. In other words, these Goldman Sachs guys have connections that Trump himself doesn't have. He needs them, the way bread needs butter.

I hope the inauguration on Friday goes off without a hitch. Fistfights are no problem, nor are strident protesters. But Paul Craig Roberts' words have me concerned, as well as the militants referenced above. There are bad people who will stop at nothing to kill Donald Trump.

Russ Mason
As Teo, Saipan

Environmental pollution and the CNMI

The CNMI Constitution has a unique provision that relates to the environment. Article I, section 9, in part states: "Each person has the right to a clean and healthful public environment in all areas, including the land, air and water." This constitutional provision mandates that each person is entitled to a clean environment. It also mandates that the environment must promote each person's health.

This constitutional provision provides that our air and water must not be polluted, and that our islands must be free and clear of trash, debris and other types of pollution. Sadly, however, the cause of most (if not all) pollution is man himself. It is us—the consumers, developers and construction firms—that pollute the environment. And although we have many laws, both federal and local, that are intended to control pollution in the air, on land and in the sea, many of us try to avoid these laws and regulations. We do so because we are lazy and because compliance with these laws is expensive and at times burdensome. A major culprit, however, is the lack of government enforcement of our environmental laws.

Pollution comes in many forms. The most obvious ones, of course, are the ones we see or smell. Nuisance is a form of pollution. So is the constant sewage outflow on manholes. So is the poisoning of our fishes, coral, other sea life, as well as oil and gas spills and other form of ocean pollution. So is the dumping of trash and debris on the side of the road or in abandoned areas.

And so is the recent Rhino bug infestation killing many of the coconut trees in the CNMI and the apparent lack of an entomologist to address such infestation.

I wish to call on the Torres-Hocog administration and the newly sworn-in members of the 20th CNMI Legislature to please make the CNMI environment a high priority on your list of proposed policies and legislations. If we are going to foster and develop further our tourist industry, we need to put a special emphasis on our environment. A clean environment not only attracts visitors to our islands, but more importantly, it promotes a healthy environment for each person in the Commonwealth and safeguards our natural resources for our children and grandchildren.

We should never allow any development that compromises our environment. We should never permit any development until after all environmental concerns have been addressed and resolved in advance of construction. Otherwise, a development that is allowed without addressing all adverse environmental consequences will harm our people and our environment and, many times, have long-term adverse effects on our health. An excellent example of this is the post-war dumping of hazardous and toxic materials by the U.S. military in the village of Tanapag.

Jose S. Dela Cruz
Koblerville, Saipan

For this reason, the complete development of the Ebola vaccine is best understood not as an overnight success but as the capstone to more than a decade of work. This new administration will undoubtedly face either an emerging infectious disease outbreak of its own, a biological weapons threat or both. Our experience with Ebola emphasizes that it is essential to understand the vital need to prepare for these threats before they materialize. Then, when a threat is recognized, employing adequate resources to advance vaccine, diagnostic and treatment development is the only path to potential success.

Repeating the success of the Ebola vaccine story is only possible if leaders make preparedness a priority, which puts us in a far better position when an emergency strikes. There is always a risk of being surprised by unknown pathogens, but if we take the threat of emerging infectious diseases seriously, and value the scientists who fight them, victories like the one against Ebola are possible.

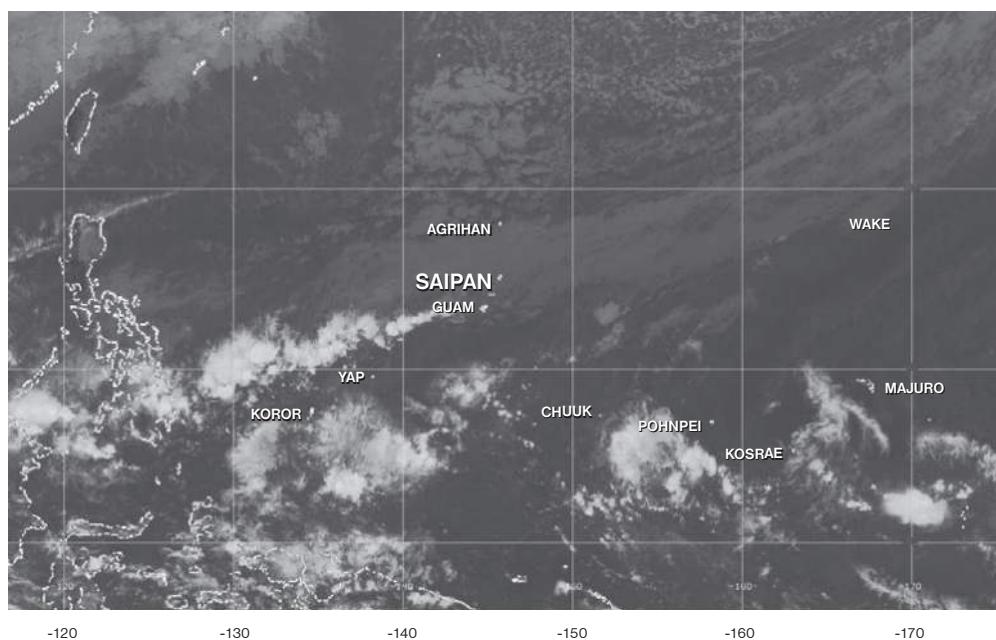
The Weather

5-DAY FORECAST FOR SAIPAN AND TINIAN

TODAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY
Mostly cloudy and breezy with isolated showers. East winds 20 to 25 mph.	Mostly cloudy and breezy with isolated showers. East winds 20 to 25 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.

▲ 87°	▼ 78°	▲ 87°	▼ 78°	▲ 87°	▼ 78°	▲ 88°	▼ 78°
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YESTERDAY'S SATELLITE IMAGE



PICTURE TIME: 7:41 AM, WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 18, 2017

Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

Andersen Air Force Base Doppler weather radar shows a band of scattered showers within the Guam and Rota coastal waters, with isolated showers elsewhere in the Marianas waters. The VAD wind profile reveals east-northeast winds of 25 to 35 knots through the lowest 10 thousand feet of the air. Above this the winds get weaker and start turning toward the southeast, the south and finally toward the southwest at around 25 thousand feet.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

MICRONESIA	▲	▼	°F
Guam and Rota	Thunderstorm	84° / 77°	
Palau	Thunderstorm	84° / 78°	
Yap	Thunderstorm	84° / 78°	
Chuuk	Partly Cloudy	86° / 81°	
Pohnpei	Mostly Cloudy	85° / 78°	
Kosrae	Mostly Cloudy	85° / 78°	
Majuro	Showers	84° / 79°	

AROUND THE GLOBE	▲	▼	°F
Auckland	Mostly Sunny	70° / 55°	
Beijing	Sunny	34° / 16°	
Hong Kong	Partly Cloudy	68° / 57°	
Honolulu	Mostly Cloudy	81° / 69°	
London	Mostly Cloudy	45° / 37°	
Los Angeles	Showers	60° / 51°	
Manila	Partly Cloudy	88° / 73°	
Melbourne	Rain	70° / 57°	
Miami	Partly Cloudy	79° / 63°	
New York	Partly Cloudy	52° / 36°	
Osaka	Mostly Sunny	46° / 36°	
Paris	Sunny	37° / 25°	
Pusan	Partly Cloudy	48° / 32°	
Rome	Partly Cloudy	52° / 36°	
Salem	Rain	71° / 59°	
San Francisco	Mostly Sunny	33° / 21°	
Seoul	Snow Shower	30° / 14°	
Tokyo	Rain	45° / 37°	
Washington, DC	Partly Cloudy	56° / 37°	



NMI CRIME STOPPERS

Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:

- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any IT&E cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.net

TIDES: SAIPAN HARBOR TODAY FEET		
6:23 AM	LOW TIDE	0.5
12:56 PM	HIGH TIDE	1.83
7:54 PM	LOW TIDE	0.65
-	-	-

	SUNRISE	SUNSET
Today	6:47 AM	6:08 PM
Friday	6:47 AM	6:09 PM
Saturday	6:47 AM	6:09 PM
Sunday	6:47 AM	6:10 PM
Monday	6:47 AM	6:11 PM

	MOONRISE	MOONSET	MOONRISE
Today	-	11:36 AM	-
Friday	12:10 AM	12:15 PM	-
Saturday	12:58 AM	12:55 PM	-
Sunday	1:45 AM	1:36 PM	-
Monday	2:33 AM	2:18 PM	-

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FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF JANUARY 17, 2017

DEPARTURES				ARRIVALS			
SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)				GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN			
UA6394	4:15am	5:05am	Daily	UA6393	2:45am	3:35am	Daily
UA6392	8:40am	9:30am	Daily	UA6395	7:15am	8:05am	Daily
UA6391	1:30pm	3:10pm	1, 4, 5, 7 via Rota	UA6391	12:10pm	1:00pm	1, 4, 5, 7
UA6390	2:20pm	3:10pm	2, 3, 6	UA6390	12:10pm	1:50pm	2, 3, 6 via Rota
UA6398	6:05pm	6:55pm	Daily	UA6397	4:45pm	5:35pm	Daily
UA6396	9:50pm	10:40pm	Daily	UA6399	8:30pm	9:20pm	Daily
SAIPAN-ROTA (ROP)				GUAM (GUM)-ROTA (ROP)			
UA6391	1:30pm	2:05pm	1, 4, 5, 7	UA6390	12:10pm	12:45pm	2, 3, 6
ROTA (ROP)-GUAM (GUM)				ROTA (ROP)-SAIPAN			
UA6391	2:35pm	3:10pm	1, 4, 5, 7	UA6390	1:15pm	1:50pm	2, 3, 6
SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT)				NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN			
DL297	4:15pm	7:05pm	Daily	DL298	10:25am	2:55pm	Daily
SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)				SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN			
TW308	2:35am	6:25am	Daily	LJ651	8:25am	1:45pm	Daily
OZ626	2:10am	6:00am	1	ZE581	9:50am	3:20pm	Daily
OZ626	2:50am	6:40am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7	7C3402	10:10am	3:30pm	Daily
TW308	3:05am	6:55am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6	TW307	8:15pm	1:35am+1	Daily
OZ628	3:50am	7:40am	Daily	OZ625	7:40pm	1:00am+1	7
7C3403	4:35am	8:30am	Daily	OZ625	8:20pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6
LJ652	3:10pm	7:05pm	Daily	TW307	8:45pm	2:05am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5
7C3401	4:30pm	8:25pm	Daily	OZ627	9:30pm	2:50am+1	Daily
ZE582	4:30pm	9:05pm	Daily	7C3404	10:10pm	3:30am+1	Daily
SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)				BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN			
7C3451	2:55am	6:10am	1, 7	7C3452	8:30pm	1:20am+1	6, 7
OZ608	3:10am	6:20am	4, 7	OZ607	9:00pm	1:50am+1	3, 6
7C3451	3:15am	6:30am	4, 5	7C3452	9:35pm	2:15am+1	3, 4
SAIPAN-JEJU (CJU)				JEJU (CJU)-SAIPAN			
7C3433	3:55am	7:30am	3, 7				

Business

Lance Mizumoto re-joins First Hawaiian Bank

HONOLULU, Hawaii—First Hawaiian Bank, Hawaii's largest bank, announced yesterday that Lance Mizumoto has re-joined the bank as executive vice president and Commercial Real Estate Division manager. Mizumoto replaces Ralph Mesick who was promoted last year in May to executive vice president and chief risk officer, Risk Management Group.

"Lance has deep roots in our community and brings extensive experience in the

areas of commercial lending, corporate banking, residential, wealth management and trade finance," said Bob Harrison, First Hawaiian Bank chairman and CEO. "We are pleased to welcome Lance back to FHB and look forward to him leveraging his knowledge of the market in helping us strategically grow our portfolio."

"I am very excited about the opportunity to return to First Hawaiian Bank. The bank is clearly headed for bigger and better things and I want to

contribute to its continued success," said Mizumoto.

Mizumoto, 58, has more than 35 years of diverse banking experience with financial institutions in Hawaii including Mizumoto First Hawaiian Bank from 1996 to 2005 serving as vice president at main and Kapiolani branches and as the Kahului branch manager before being promoted to senior vice president and manager of



the Corporate Hawaii Division and Trade Finance Department.

He spent the majority of his banking career in executive leadership positions overseeing areas of commercial real estate, commercial banking, wealth management, and trade finance. Most recently he was vice chairman and chief operating officer of Central Pacific Bank. He serves as chairman

of the Hawaii State Board of Education and is a member of Chaminade University Board of Regents.

Mizumoto received his bachelor of business administration in management from the Shidler College of Business at the University of Hawaii at Manoa and holds an MBA from Chaminade University. He is a graduate of Pearl City High School.

First Hawaiian Bank (www.fhb.com) with \$19.9 billion in total assets was founded in

1858 as Bishop & Co., and today it is Hawaii's largest bank offering a diversified range of banking services to consumer and commercial customers, including deposit products, lending services, wealth management, insurance, private banking and trust services. It operates 57 branches in Hawaii, three on Guam and two on Saipan. First Hawaiian, Inc., the parent company of First Hawaiian Bank, is the largest publicly traded company based in Hawaii. (FHB)

BUSINESS BRIEFS

China preparing to retaliate on trade

BEIJING (AP)—An American business group says China is preparing to retaliate if U.S. President-elect Donald Trump imposes sanctions on Chinese goods. A board member of the American Chamber of Commerce in China, Lester Ross, said Wednesday that Beijing "is preparing to take steps in retaliation" if Trump acts. Ross said Beijing already has toughened its stance by imposing higher anti-dumping duties on a U.S.-made agricultural chemical than Chinese regulators recommended. Trump, whose inauguration is Friday, has promised to raise import duties on Chinese goods to 45 percent and declare Beijing a currency manipulator, moving toward imposing other penalties. Chinese President Xi Jinping, in an implicit rebuke to Trump, issued a ringing defense of free trade in a speech Tuesday and warned a "trade war" would harm all countries involved.

Tobacco giant to emerge from \$49 billion deal

LONDON (AP)—British American Tobacco will take over Reynolds American Inc. to create the world's largest publicly traded tobacco company that would seek to capitalize on growing demand for electronic cigarettes in the U.S. and traditional ones in developing countries. BAT, which has a greater global footprint and already sells Dunhill, Rothmans and

Lucky Strike cigarettes, is interested in Reynolds' greater market share in the U.S., where use of e-cigarettes is growing fastest. On the other hand, they would be able to market Reynolds' brands like Newport, Camel and Pall Mall across a range of developing economies, where anti-smoking campaigns are not as strong as in the U.S. and Europe. BAT will pay about \$49 billion to buy the 57.8 percent of Reynolds' it doesn't already own. Reynolds shareholders will receive for each share \$29.44 in cash and 0.5260 BAT shares.

UN report: Asian growth outlook bright despite uncertainty

BANGKOK (AP)—A United Nations report says Asia's economic outlook for 2017 is strong despite slowing global growth due to sluggish international trade and investment. The world economy grew 2.2 percent in 2016, the slowest pace since the end of the 2008 financial crisis. Britain's plan to leave the European Union and the election of Donald Trump as U.S. president are adding to uncertainty. Despite a slowdown in China, Asia remains a "bright spot," the U.N. Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific said in the report released Wednesday. Strong consumer demand and government spending helped make up for weak exports, as East and South Asia grew at a steady pace of 5.7 percent in 2016, level with the year before.

18 million more uninsured if Obamacare killed, not replaced



House Speaker Paul Ryan of Wis., joined by, from left, Rep. Cathy McMorris Rodgers, R-Wash., House Majority Leader Kevin McCarthy of Calif., and interim House Budget Committee Chairman Rep. Diane Black, R-Tenn., meet with reporters on Capitol Hill in Washington, Tuesday, Jan. 10, 2017, to discuss their efforts to replace the Affordable Care Act, following a closed-door meeting with the GOP caucus. (AP)

WASHINGTON (AP)—Insurance premiums would soar for millions of Americans and 18 million more would be uninsured in just one year if Republicans scuttle much of President Barack Obama's health care overhaul without a replacement, Congress' budget analysts said Tuesday.

Spotlighting potential perils for Republicans, the report immediately became a flashing hazard light for this year's effort by Donald Trump and GOP lawmakers to annul Obama's law and—in a more complicated challenge—institutionalize their own alternative.

It also swiftly became political fodder in what is expected to be one of this year's biggest battles in Congress.

Republicans have produced several outlines for how they'd redraft Obama's 2010 statute, but they've failed to unite behind one plan. President-elect Trump and GOP congressional leaders have at times offered clashing descriptions of their shared top goal, so eventual success is hardly guaranteed.

Tuesday's evaluation came from the nonpartisan Congressional Budget Office, joined by Congress' Joint Committee

on Taxation.

Together, they analyzed a Republican-written bill, vetoed by Obama last January, that would have erased major portions of his overhaul. Those included tax penalties for people who fail to buy insurance and for larger companies that don't cover workers, federal subsidies to help consumers buy policies on the law's online marketplaces and an expansion of Medicaid coverage for low-income people.

The new report said under such a measure, premiums for individual policies—ex-

cluding the coverage many workers get from employers—would swell by up to 25 percent the first year after enactment and double by 2026. The number of uninsured would reach 32 million over the decade, the analysts said.

However, Republicans say there's a big difference between that 2016 bill and this year's plan: Last year's version would not have replaced Obama's statute with a GOP alternative, while Republicans insist replacement will be an integral part of their new health care drive.



LEADING INDICATORS

DOW
19,826.77
-58.96
-0.30%

S&P
2,267.89
-6.75
-0.30%

NASDAQ
5,538.73
-35.39
-0.63%

In U.S. dollar terms

EXCHANGE RATES

Australian Dollar	1.3247
British Pound	0.8106
Canadian Dollar	1.3072
Chinese Yuan	6.8599
Euro	0.9353

Hong Kong Dollar	7.7544
Indian Rupee	67.96
Japanese Yen	113.263
Malaysian Ringgit	4.445
New Zealand Dollar	1.3886
Philippine Peso	49.76
Russian Ruble	59.295
Singapore Dollar	1.4201
South Korean Won	1167.5
Swiss Franc	1.0036
Taiwan Dollar	31.54
Thailand Baht	35.28



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Nation

Obama shortens Manning's term, grants clemency to hundreds

WASHINGTON (AP)—President Barack Obama granted clemency to Chelsea Manning on Tuesday, allowing the transgender Army intelligence officer convicted of leaking more than 700,000 U.S. documents to go free nearly three decades early.

Embracing his clemency powers days before leaving office, Obama also pardoned 64 individuals including retired Gen. James Cartwright, charged with making false statements during another leak probe. Manning was one of 209 inmates with sentences commuted by Obama, who has now granted more com-

mutations than any other president in history.

Neil Eggleston, Obama's White House counsel, said the individuals would learn "that our nation is a forgiving nation, where hard work and a commitment to rehabilitation can lead to a second chance, and where wrongs from the past will not deprive an individual of the opportunity to move forward."

Manning, Cartwright and Puerto Rican nationalist Oscar Lopez Rivera were the more prominent names on a list otherwise made up mostly of nonviolent drug offenders. The actions are permanent,



and cannot be undone by President-elect Donald Trump.

With his last-minute clemency for Manning and Cartwright, Obama appeared to

be softening what has been a hard-line approach to prosecuting leakers.

Manning has been serving a 35-year sentence for leak-

AP
In this undated file photo provided by the U.S. Army, Pfc. Chelsea Manning poses for a photo wearing a wig and lipstick.

ing classified government and military documents to WikiLeaks, along with some battlefield video. She was convicted in military court of violating the Espionage Act and other offenses and spent more than six years behind bars. She asked Obama last November to commute her sentence to time served.

Her case has pitted LGBT rights activists, who warned about her mental health and treatment as a transgender woman living in a men's prison, against national secur-

ity hawks who said she did devastating damage to U.S. interests. The former cheered Obama's move, while the latter called it an outrageous act that set a dangerous precedent.

Yet Obama did not grant a pardon to another prominent leaker, former National Security Agency contractor Edward Snowden, whom the U.S. has been unable to extradite from Russia. Snowden hasn't formally applied for clemency, though his supporters have called for it. Yet the White House drew a distinction between the unapologetic Snowden and Manning, whom officials noted has expressed remorse and served several years already for her crime.

Janet Napolitano in hospital over side effect of cancer care

SAN FRANCISCO (AP)—University of California President Janet Napolitano, a former U.S. Homeland Security secretary and governor of Arizona, has been undergoing cancer treatment for five months and was hospitalized after suffering complications, the school system revealed Tuesday.

The UC Office of the Presi-

dent said Napolitano, 59, was diagnosed last August but did not say what type of cancer she has or respond to inquiries seeking further details. Her condition had not previously been made public and emerged after a side effect from treatment sent her to the hospital Monday.

Her office said Napolitano has performed her duties at full capacity and is expected to be discharged in the next day or so. The president of the 10-campus system has kept the chairwoman of the UC Board of Regents informed throughout her treatment, which is nearly complete, the university said.

The rest of the board learned of Napolitano's diagnosis in a phone call Tuesday, followed by an email from chairwoman Monica Lozano.

"As you no doubt have observed, Janet has been able to consistently perform her wide range of duties and extensive travel at full capacity," Lozano wrote. "Yesterday, however, she experienced side effects from her treatment that required her to be briefly hospitalized."

A spokesman for Gov. Jerry Brown, Evan Westrup, said Brown's office was contacted "ahead of time" about her illness but did not respond to a request for more specifics about when the governor was notified.

Napolitano is entitled to privacy about her medical condition as long as she can reasonably perform her duties, said George Annas, director of the Center for Health Law, Ethics & Human Rights at Boston University School of Public Health.

Police: Daughters taken 3 decades ago found, mom arrested

SCITUATE, R.I. (AP)—Two sisters who disappeared from Rhode Island with their mother in 1985 have been located in the Houston area, and their mother was charged with snatching them, police announced Tuesday.

An anonymous tip two days before Christmas led police to Kimberly and Kelly Yates and their mother, Elaine Yates, state police Lt. Col. Joseph Philbin said. Elaine Yates, who had been living in Houston under the name Liana Lynn Waldberg, was arrested

Monday and faces arraignment Wednesday in Rhode Island.

Kelly Yates was 10 months old and her sister was 3 years old when they disappeared. Kelly Yates, now 32, and Yates

Kimberly Yates, now 35, weren't living with their mother, who's

69, but are in the Houston area and are in good health,

Philbin said.

The girls' father, Russell Yates, was told of the arrest

immediately after it happened and is relieved, Philbin said. His contact information was given to his daughters.

"I've always been trying to find my children," the father said. "Now at least, it's up to them to get in touch with me."

Russell Yates told The Providence Journal in a 1988 magazine story his wife had discovered he had been unfaithful to her and had threatened to move

out in the middle of the night with the children. He acknowledged punching her while they argued. A few weeks later, on Aug. 27, 1985, he came home after work around 2 a.m. and found them gone.

The case was featured on "America's Most Wanted," and police received tips from all over the country. Investigators reviewed the case and spoke with Russell Yates at least once a year, Philbin said. But it wasn't until they received the anonymous tip that they cracked the case.



POPULIST AGENDA

In this Nov. 10, 2016 file photo, President-elect Donald Trump, center, walks with Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell of Ky. after a meeting on Capitol Hill in Washington. For eight years, a leaderless Republican Party has rallied around its passionate opposition to President Barack Obama and a rigid devotion to small government, free markets and fiscal discipline. No more. On the eve of his inauguration, Donald Trump is remaking the Republican Party in his image, casting aside decades of Republican orthodoxy for a murky populist agenda that sometimes clashes with core conservative beliefs.

Asia

Australia defends end of MH370 hunt; investigation continues

SYDNEY (AP)—Australian officials defended their suspension of the fruitless deep-sea sonar search for Malaysia Airlines Flight 370, insisting on Wednesday that the enormous costs involved played no role in their decision to halt the nearly three-year hunt.

Australia's Transport Minister Darren Chester also said that while the search had been called off on Tuesday, work behind the scenes would go on, with experts continuing

Supreme Court hears case over deportations

WASHINGTON (AP)—The Obama administration tried to persuade the Supreme Court Tuesday to retain a federal law that makes it easier to deport immigrants who have been convicted of crimes.

If the justices agree, the outcome could help the incoming Trump administration fulfill its pledge to step up the deportation of immigrants who are convicted of crimes.

The justices heard argument in the administration's appeal of a lower court ruling that struck down the law as unconstitutional. The case concerns a provision of immigration law that defines a "crime of violence." Conviction for a crime of violence subjects an immigrant to deportation and usually speeds up the process.

It was unclear from the argument how the court would rule.

The federal appeals court in San Francisco struck down the measure as too vague. The appeals court based its ruling on a 2015 Supreme Court decision that struck down a similarly worded part of another federal law imposing longer prison sentence on repeat criminals.

Since then, four other appellate panels have ruled for immigrants, while one has sided with the government.

The high court case concerns James Dimaya, a native of the Philippines who came to the United States legally as a 13-year-old in 1992. He was twice convicted of burglary in California. The government began deportation proceedings against him in 2010.

"We have seen this show before. We know how it ends," said Joshua Rosenkranz, Dimaya's lawyer, urging the court to strike down the measure. The justices heard several cases involving repeat criminals before finally voiding the law.

to analyze data associated with the doomed aircraft's final hours and examining any future debris that washes ashore. But he declined to specify what kind of breakthrough would convince officials to resume the search for the Boeing 777's underwater wreckage.

"When we get some information or data or a breakthrough that leads us to a specific location, the experts will know it when they see it," he told reporters in the southern city of Melbourne.

Australia, Malaysia and

China—which have funded the \$160 million search—have rejected pleas from family members of the passengers and some investigators that search crews be allowed to keep going. China is involved because more than half of the 239 people on board the plane were Chinese.

Late last year, as ships with high-tech search equipment covered the last strips of the 120,000-square kilometer (46,000-square mile) search zone west of Australia, experts concluded they had been looking in the wrong

place and should have been searching a smaller area immediately to the north. But by then, the three countries had already agreed not to search elsewhere without evidence of the plane's exact location.

Chester defended the decision to call off the hunt without checking the new area to the north, saying, "No one is coming to me as minister and saying, 'We know where MH370 is.'" And he insisted the high price of the search had nothing to do with pulling the plug.

"It is a costly exercise, but

it hasn't been the factor which led to the decision to suspend the search," Chester said. "We don't want to provide false hope to the families and friends. We need to have credible new evidence leading to a specific location before we would be reasonably considering future search efforts."

Officials are facing a no-win situation, the transport minister said in an interview with the Australian Broadcasting Corp. Call off the search, he said, and disappoint those who want reso-

lution to the world's greatest aviation mystery. Keep going, and face the wrath of taxpayers who have already spent millions of dollars with no result.

The new 25,000-square kilometer (9,700-square mile) area to the north was determined with the help of drift modeling by Australia's Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organization, which attempted to calculate where debris that has washed ashore on coastlines in the western Indian Ocean originated.



MISS UNIVERSE

Miss Universe Pia Wurtzbach, center, arrives at the SMX Convention Center for the formal launch of the Miss Universe 2017 beauty pageant in suburban Pasay city south of Manila, Philippines, Monday, Jan. 16, 2017. Eighty-six candidates from around the world are vying for the title to succeed Pia Wurtzbach from the Philippines. The competition takes place on Jan. 30.

AP

Caroline Kennedy leaves Japan after 3 years as US ambassador

TOKYO (AP)—Caroline Kennedy is stepping down Wednesday after three years as U.S. ambassador to Japan, where she was welcomed like a celebrity and worked to deepen the U.S.-Japan relationship despite regular flare-ups over American military bases on the southern island of Okinawa.

She ruffled some feathers early on by tweeting her opposition to Japan's dolphin hunt, shortly after her embassy issued a statement expressing "disappointment" that Japan's leader had visited a shrine that memorializes World War II war criminals, among others.

During her tenure, though,

the conservative Prime Minister Shinzo Abe and liberal U.S. President Barack Obama built a relationship of trust despite coming from opposite ends of the political spectrum.

"She has great skills and authority as a convener, a much needed function in U.S.-Japan relations," said Kent Calder,

the director of the Reischauer Center for East Asian Studies at Johns Hopkins School of Advanced International Studies in Washington, D.C. "She has been more of a network builder than a concrete policy initiator, but that is almost an inevitable role for ambassadors these days."

Her legacy includes facil-

tating Obama's historic visit to Hiroshima last May, one of two Japanese cities devastated by U.S. atomic bombs in 1945, Calder said. Kennedy was in Pearl Harbor at the end of last year when Abe reciprocated with a visit to the site of Japan's 1941 surprise attack that drew America into World War II.

In final speech, Hong Kong leader warns on independence push

HONG KONG (AP)—Hong Kong's outgoing leader warned in his farewell policy speech Wednesday that independence for the Chinese-controlled territory is not possible.

In his annual address to the legislature, Chief Executive Leung Chun-ying said that

Hong Kong is an "inalienable" part of China.

"There is absolutely no room for independence or any form of separation," he said.

The latter part of Leung's five-year term has been marked by growing separatist sentiment following massive 2014 pro-de-

mocracy protests that failed to sway the government's position on restricting electoral reform.

He said that under the "one country, two systems" framework that allows Hong Kong to have considerable autonomy and retain civil liberties not seen on mainland China, residents

must comply with the city's Basic Law constitution "and safeguard national sovereignty, security and territorial integrity."

Last year, Leung's government took a tough stance against two newly elected lawmakers, taking legal action to disqualify them from office af-

ter they used their swearing-in ceremonies to mount apparent protests against China and express pro-independence views.

The unpopular Leung said last month he won't seek a second term in office after his current term ends in June, citing family reasons.

World

Nigerian air force bombs refugee camp, more than 100 dead

MAIDUGURI, Nigeria

(AP)—A Nigerian air force fighter jet on a mission against Boko Haram extremists mistakenly bombed a refugee camp on Tuesday, killing more than 100 refugees and aid workers and wounding 200, a government official and doctors said.

Military commander Maj. Gen. Lucky Irabor confirmed an accidental bombardment

in the northeastern town of Rann, near the border with Cameroon, saying “some” civilians were killed.

It was believed to be the first time Nigeria’s military has acknowledged making such a mistake in a region where villagers have in the past reported civilian casualties in the near-daily bombings targeting the Islamic militants.

Nigeria’s President Muhammadu Buhari expressed deep sadness and regret at “this regrettable operational mistake.”

A Borno state government official, who was helping to coordinate the evacuation of wounded from the remote area by helicopters, said more than 100 refugees and aid workers were among the dead. He spoke on condition

of anonymity because he was not authorized to speak to reporters.

Doctors Without Borders said its team based in Rann counted at least 52 bodies and was treating 200 wounded, many in critical condition, and the death toll was expected to rise.

“This large-scale attack on vulnerable people who have already fled from extreme vi-

olence is shocking and unacceptable,” said Dr. Jean-Clement Cabrol, the aid group’s director of operations.

As night fell, the group’s team struggled to stabilize the seriously wounded. “We hope that during the night not many more people will die,” said the group’s head of emergency programs, Hugues Robert, describing a complex evacuation because

the area is insecure.

Photographs of the carnage showed a man carrying a wounded child, his clothing stained with blood, as well as bloodied victims being treated on the ground outside a tent clinic overflowing with the wounded. Nearby, corpses lay covered by blankets and prayer mats, alongside mounds of hastily dug graves.



ANNUAL TRADITION

A woman drinks wine man next to a bonfire as part of a ritual in honor of Saint Anthony the Abbot, the patron saint of domestic animals, in San Bartolome de Pinares, about 100 km west of Madrid, Spain on Monday, Jan. 16, 2017. On the eve of Saint Anthony’s Day, hundreds ride their horses through the narrow cobblestone streets of the small village of San Bartolome during the “Luminarias,” a tradition that dates back 500 years and is meant to purify the animals with the smoke of the bonfires and protect them for the year to come. AP

WORLD BRIEFS

Obama gives \$500 million to climate fund over GOP objections

WASHINGTON (AP)—With just three days left in office, the Obama administration has doubled an initial \$500 million commitment to a fund that helps developing nations fight climate change and adapt to its consequences. The incoming Trump administration and some Republicans oppose the program. The State Department’s announcement

Tuesday brings U.S. contributions to the Green Climate Fund to \$1 billion since 2016. The fund helps poor countries reduce carbon emissions by promoting clean energy and spurring private investment in the field. “This administration has committed to this fund, in fact helped stand it up, establish it,” State Department spokesman John Kirby said. “And it is entirely in keeping with the work that we’ve been doing across the interagency to

try to look for ways to stem the effects of climate change, and this fund helps other economies, other countries develop their own initiatives and help them deal with this.” Obama promised a total of \$3 billion to the fund in 2014 as part of the Paris climate change accord, but it is far from certain that full amount will be pledged.

Gambia leader, pressured to go, declares state of emergency

DAKAR, Senegal (AP)—Gambia’s President Yahya Jammeh declared a state of emergency on Tuesday, just two days before he is supposed to cede power after losing elections last month. The longtime leader is refusing to step down despite international pressure and the threat by other West African nations of a military intervention. The 90-day state of emergency, announced on state television, was to begin immediately. It bans all residents

and citizens from “any acts of disobedience” or violence and urges security forces to maintain order. In the announcement, Jammeh also blamed what he called the unprecedented level of foreign involvement in Gambia’s election. The National Assembly, in approving the state of emergency, condemned the “unlawful and malicious interference” by the African Union’s Peace and Security Council, which has said the continental body will

no longer recognize Jammeh as Gambia’s legitimate leader as of Thursday. President-elect Adama Barrow, the man who ousted Jammeh in the December election, is vowing to take power on Thursday despite Jammeh’s refusal to leave. Jammeh says the country must wait for Gambia’s supreme court to decide on the ruling party’s challenge to the election results, a delay that could take months. The party alleges voting irregularities.

Focus

In Africa, Obama's presidency couldn't help but be personal

AP

In this Sunday, June 30, 2013 file photo, U.S. President Barack Obama walks from Section B, prison cell No. 5, where former South African president Nelson Mandela spent 18 years of his 27-year prison term locked up by the former apartheid government, on Robben Island, South Africa.



JOHANNESBURG (AP)—Africa was electrified by the rise of Barack Obama, the first U.S. president of African descent. It was in Africa that he signaled a historic opening toward Cuba, took aim at the twin scourges of corruption and dictatorship and sent thousands of troops to fight one of the most terrifying disease outbreaks in decades.

Above all, Obama's ties to Africa were personal. On the first visit to his father's homeland, Kenya, since winning the White House, he assured the cheering crowds: "I'll be back."

But many Africans with high hopes were left wishing for more.

AT MANDELA'S MEMORIAL SERVICE, SHAKES RAUL CASTRO'S HAND

Like Nelson Mandela, Obama became the first black president of his country.

A rhetorical highlight of Obama's connection with Africa came at the December 2013 memorial service for Mandela, the anti-apartheid figure who became South Africa's leader after historic elections in 1994. Obama energized tens of thousands of mourners and nearly 100 visiting heads of state with a plea for the world to emulate Mandela, describing him as "the last great liberator of the 20th century."

Mandela's memorial was also the setting for a handshake between Obama and President Raul Castro of Cuba, a long-time U.S. adversary. While U.S. and Cuban officials said the handshake was a courtesy rather than a symbol of warming ties, Washington and Havana restored diplomatic relations in 2015.

URGES AFRICAN LEADERS TO RESPECT DEMOCRACY

In his address to the African Union at its shiny, new headquarters built and funded by the Chinese government, Obama bluntly told African leaders not to cling to power. "When a leader tries to change the rules in the middle of the

game just to stay in office, it risks instability and strife," he said. "No one should be president for life."

Since Obama's July 2015 address, a number of African leaders have nonetheless made efforts to stay in office, whether by extending term or age limits, saying election preparations would take longer than expected or simply, as in the current case in Gambia, refusing to step down.

Obama's visit to Ethiopia, the seat of the African Union, was criticized by human rights groups, which said his trip lent legitimacy to an oppressive government.

IS CRITICIZED FOR SUPPORTING GAY RIGHTS

Days before President-elect Donald Trump won election, some Ugandans were arrested outside the U.S. Embassy with placards in his support. They said Trump would be tougher on "dictators" like Ugandan President Yoweri Museveni—a criticism of Obama's failure to deal more firmly with African strongmen.

Also baffling to some was the Obama administration's support of gay rights in Africa, where many countries criminalize homosexual acts. "Under Obama, the definition of human rights really was gay rights, and many people ridiculed him for that," said Nicholas Sengoba, an independent analyst and newspaper columnist.

Sengoba called Obama an "average president" in the eyes of many Africans who had high—sometimes impossible—expectations of the first African-American president. Some had hoped for more aid and visa relaxations because they are used to strongmen who make things happen, he said.

"Obama has mostly left Africa where he found it," he said.

CELEBRATES CREATION OF SOUTH SUDAN, THEN WATCHES IT IMplode

Obama witnessed both the creation and disintegration of South Sudan, the world's youngest country. The oil-rich East African nation declared independence in 2011 after

decades of struggle and with significant U.S. support. Two years later, civil war erupted.

Today, South Sudan is at risk of genocide, according to the United Nations. The fighting has killed tens of thousands. The U.S. led talks to reach a peace deal in 2015, but it collapsed after fighting erupted in the capital, Juba, in July. A recent U.S.-led effort to impose a U.N. arms embargo failed and was met with hostility from South Sudan's government.

Anti-American rhetoric remains high. Hours after Trump's election win was announced, government spokesman Michael Makuei took a final jab at the outgoing president. "I really doubt President Obama had any clear policy to South Sudan other than to destroy it," Makuei said.

SENDS TROOPS TO FIGHT EBOLA OUTBREAK

In September 2014, as the world's worst outbreak of the deadly Ebola virus surged in West Africa, Obama announced the deployment of about 3,000 troops and called for the U.S. to lead global efforts to end the epidemic, saying it was "the best way to keep Americans safe."

Obama's response came more than six months after the first Ebola cases were confirmed, and his administration was accused of moving too slowly and initially focusing too much on Liberia, a country with historic ties to the U.S. that ultimately recorded more than 4,800 deaths, the most of any country.

By early 2015, cases were declining considerably, and the White House said the work of U.S. military and civilian responders "dramatically bent the curve of the epidemic."

VISITS HIS FATHER'S HOMELAND, WARNS AGAINST CORRUPTION

Kenya declared a public holiday when it became clear Obama had won the U.S. presidency, and many babies born that day were named for him. The news uplifted the East African country that had seen more than 1,000 people killed in recent election violence.

Obama's visit in July 2015 was the first to his father's homeland since winning the White House, as well as the first visit by a sitting U.S. president. Perhaps no one celebrated more than his Kenyan family, which included Obama's step-grandmother and his half-brothers.

Obama also spoke passionately about rooting out corruption in Kenya—comments that the government received more diplomatically than on his first visit to the country as a state senator in 2006.

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IN SOMALIA, INCREASES USE OF DRONES IN WAR ON TERROR

The use of drones for military purposes in the war on terror was a major theme in Obama's presidency and it could be seen in Somalia, where the al-Qaida-linked al-Shabab extremist group started threatening neighboring countries.

The U.S. deployed more drones across the Horn of Africa nation against al-Shabab leaders. One drone attack in 2014 killed the group's spiritual leader Ahmed Abdi Godane, a year after he claimed responsibility for one of the group's deadliest attacks outside Somalia, the assault on Westgate Mall in Kenya that killed at least 67.

Officials in Somalia say the killing of Godane and other al-Shabab leaders has dealt a serious blow to the group's ability in coordinating high-profile attacks.

Environment



GLOBAL WARMING could steal postcard-perfect weather days

In this Nov. 9, 2013 file photo, a child plays with a ball next to a couple posing for a photographer in a park outside Bucharest, Romania.

AP

WASHINGTON (AP)—Global warming is going to steal away some of those postcard-perfect weather days in the future, according to a first-of-its-kind projection of nice weather.

On average, Earth will have 10 fewer days of mild and mostly dry weather by the end of the century, the researchers estimate. Some places will get more days perfect for picnics or outdoor weddings, while other places will lose a lot. Rio de Janeiro, Miami and much of Africa are big losers, while Europe and Seattle will gain nicer weather.

“It’s the type of weather where you can go outside and do something fun,” said study lead author Karin van der Wiel, a meteorology researcher at Princeton University and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.

“It’s not too cold. It’s not too hot. It’s not too humid.”

For the past three decades, the world has averaged 74 mild days a year. But by 2035 that will shrink to 70 and then 64 by the last two decades of the century, according to the study, published Wednesday in the journal *Climatic Change*. Mild weather was defined as between 68 and 86 degrees (18 and 30 degrees Celsius) with low humidity and no more than a trace of rain.

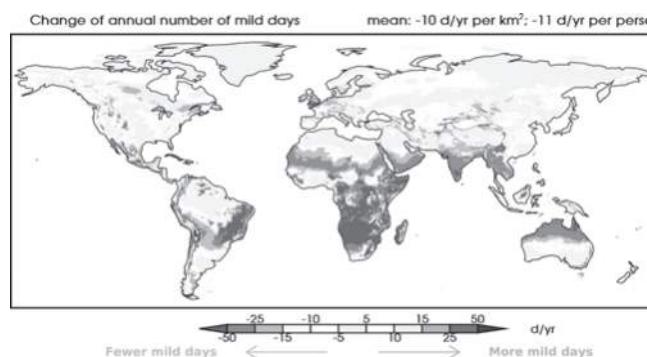
Any change depends on where you live and the time of year. For example, on average, the U.S. will lose nine mild summer days by the end of the century, although most is gained back with more mild days in the winter, spring and fall. The report estimates that Washington, Chicago, New York and Dallas will lose two weeks of pleasant summer

weather but some is gained back. On average, Washington loses 13 mild days; Atlanta, 12; Chicago, 9; Denver and New York, 6; and Dallas, 1.

The biggest losers will be the tropics and nearly all of Africa, eastern South America, South Asia and northern Australia. Rio de Janeiro, on average, will see 40 mild days disappear. Miami will lose its only mild summer day and nearly a month of spring and fall mild days by 2100.

“The changes are more dramatic in parts of the developing world, where you have high concentrations of populations,” said NOAA climate scientist and co-author Sarah Kapnick.

Other places, especially northern developed ones, will gain some of what the tropics lost. England and northern Europe are big winners. Seattle



should pick up nine mild days and Los Angeles, which already has a lot of nice weather, gets six extra by the end of the century.

The scientists didn’t specifically focus on whether the loss of mild days has already started globally, but they did see it happening in much of Africa and South America, Van der Wiel said.

Climate scientists usually focus on extreme weather—record heat, tropical cyclones,

droughts, floods—and how they could get worse as the world warms. Kapnick said she wanted to look at nice weather because her friends kept asking her what day to choose for good wedding weather.

The team used a middle ground scenario for global warming—not worst-case runaway carbon pollution and not dramatic cuts in emissions of heat-trapping gases—and ran different computer simulations

to see what would happen.

It’s not just fewer nice days to enjoy. Fewer mild days will also harm agricultural production and allow disease-carrying insects to thrive more in more places, said University of Georgia meteorology professor Marshall Shepherd.

Stanford University climate scientist Chris Field, who led an international study of extreme weather, questioned the purpose of the study: “Extreme conditions are the sharp end of the climate stick. It is in the extremes when things break and damage occurs.”

National Center for Atmospheric Research scientist Gerald Meehl, who also studies extreme weather, said a decrease in mild weather may not quite have the economic and health costs but there are other factors such as tourism “or simple human enjoyment.”

ing, a live whale was spotted, which the team is continuing to search for.

Park officials have closed the area around the key and are asking boaters and planes to steer clear as a dozen organizations, including the U.S. Coast Guard and Mote Marine Laboratory, assist in the search.

False killer whales are a type of dolphin and closely resemble killer whales without the white patches.

Mysterious stranding kills 81 false killer whales off Southwest Florida

By JENNY STALETOVICH
MIAMI HERALD

MIAMI—More than 80 false killer whales have been found dead after stranding themselves along the remote coast of Southwest Florida in Everglades National Park, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration reported Monday.

So far, the death toll is 81,

with just one of the rare whales found alive. Crews continue to search for another dozen or so from a pod originally thought to number about 100. It is the largest recorded stranding of such whales in Florida, officials said.

NOAA’s mammal stranding network first received a report of the beached whales near Hog Key on Saturday. Hog Key sits amid a dense

network of islands off Southwest Florida, about 10 to 12 miles south of Pavilion Key, a popular camping site along the Wilderness Waterway in Everglades National Park.

After the U.S. Coast Guard confirmed the stranding, a team from NOAA and the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission hurried to the scene, about an hour’s boat ride from shore,

and tried to herd some of the whales to deeper water as daylight faded, said Blair Mase, the stranding network coordinator. They returned on Sunday and tried again, but were hampered by the shallow muddy flats and a shoreline tangled with mangroves.

The whales, which included adults, juveniles and calves, were “deeply em-

bedded in some of the mangroves, making response efforts extremely difficult,” Mase said.

Lack of cellphone service also complicated the rescue attempt, she said. The crews also had to deal with sharks.

Rescuers ended up euthanizing nine of the whales too sick to survive, Mase said. Another 72 died on their own by Sunday. Monday morn-

Life & Style

CNN documentary 'The End' tracks end of Obama presidency

NEW YORK (AP)—Less than 48 hours before President Barack Obama leaves office, CNN will air an intimate tribute told through the workdays and accounts of key White House staff members.

But however worthy it may be, this two-hour documentary, airing Wednesday at 9 p.m. EST, may face a wary reception.

For those who have disagreed with Obama's policies and even questioned his ci-

zenship the past eight years, this film is unlikely at such a late date to stir a reappraisal of his legacy or character.

Meanwhile, for others, the film will be yet another painful reminder of what will soon be over and what might have been.

Presumably without meaning to plumb the depths of despair gripping Obama's supporters, the program strikes an elegiac chord with its title: "The End: Inside the Last Days of the

Sam Moore to sing at Trump inaugural event

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (AP)—Sam Moore of the soul duo Sam and Dave has been added to the list of performers for President-elect Donald Trump's inaugural events.

Moore told The Associated Press on Tuesday that he felt that the criticism leveled at singer Jennifer Holliday, which led to her to back out of the event, was unfair. Several other musicians have also backed away from performing.

The 81-year-old Moore will perform at the Make America Great Again! Welcome Celebration on Thursday. Others expected to play include country stars Lee Greenwood and Toby Keith.

Moore said he initially planned to attend the event at the Lincoln Memorial because he wanted to see Holliday sing, but when she backed out last week, he asked if he could sing in her place.

"I am not going to let them, the left side, intimidate me from doing what I feel is the right thing to do for the coun-

try and that (presidential) seal," Moore said in a phone interview Tuesday.

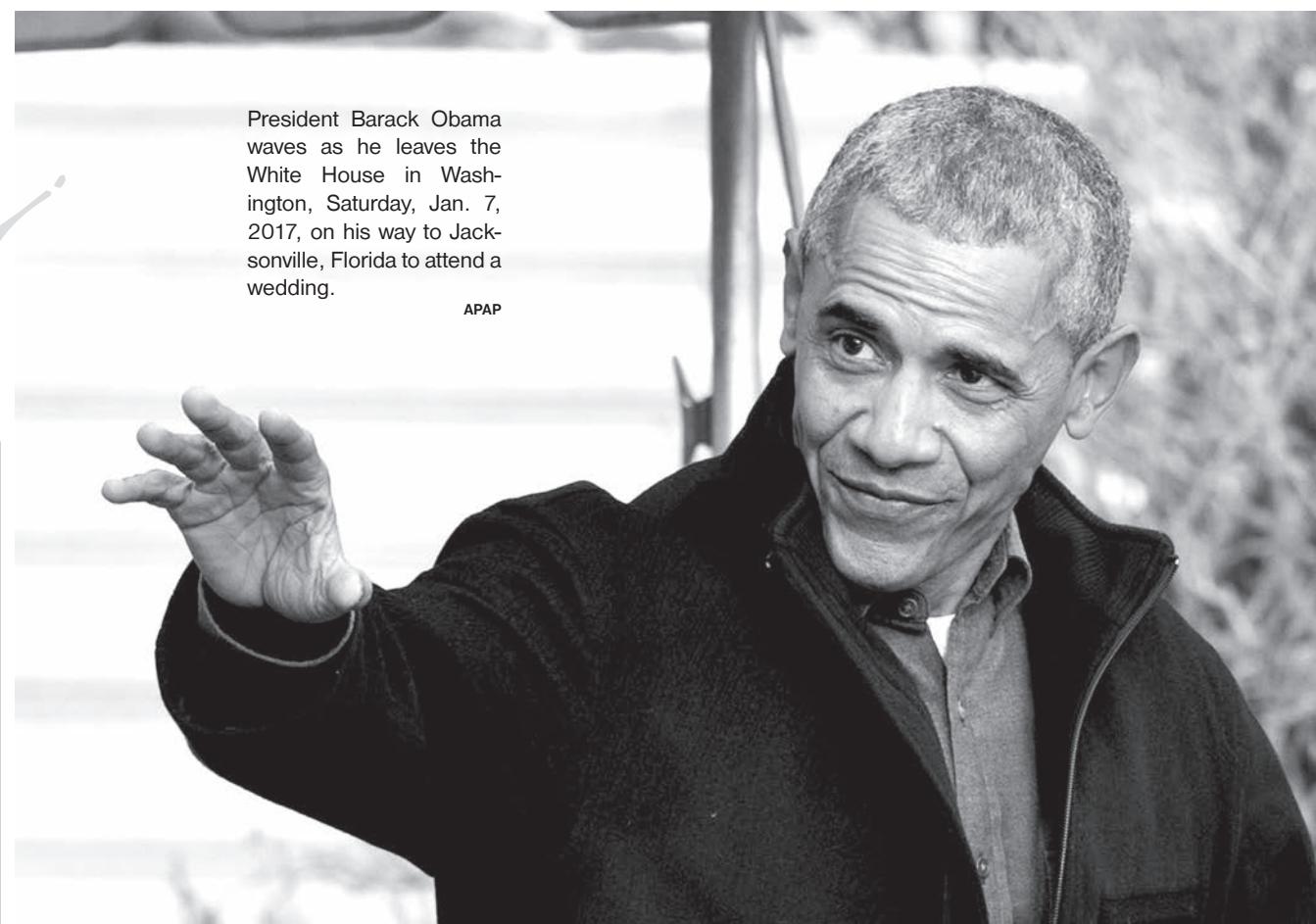
Moore and his late musical partner Dave Prater were hit singers in the late 1960s with Isaac Hayes-penned hits like "Hold On, I'm Comin'" and "Soul Man," which earned them a Grammy award. Prater died in 1988, but Moore continues to perform and record as a solo artist.

Moore, who has performed for five other U.S. presidents, said he doesn't know Trump personally and sometimes he's been surprised by opinions expressed by Trump.

"He's got a big mouth, like me," Moore said. "Whether you agree with him or not, he's going to say what's on his mind."

But he said Trump deserves a chance to prove himself as the next president.

"Give the man a shot," Moore said. "He hasn't even said 'I do' yet. Give him a chance. If you don't like him after four years, then don't vote for him next time."



President Barack Obama waves as he leaves the White House in Washington, Saturday, Jan. 7, 2017, on his way to Jacksonville, Florida to attend a wedding.

APAP

Obama White House."

Spanning the past two months, "The End" ends, fittingly, with Obama's farewell address last week in Chicago.

It begins on election day, as Hillary Clinton's electoral-college defeat by Donald Trump is received at the White House with shock and grief.

But then we see Obama bucking up his thunderstruck staff.

"Everybody is sad when their side loses an election," the president says. "But we all have to remember we're all on one team."

Chief speechwriter Cody Keenan, one of the figures followed through the documentary, crafted the president's magnanimous remarks. In his windowless office in the White House basement, he concedes those words are "obviously not the ones I wanted to be writing."

Another recurring character, press secretary Josh Earnest, gathers his crew to prep for a news conference as they scramble for grounding in the flood of events.

"Just don't look at Twitter," cracks one of his fellow writers and they all laugh.

Nothing in particular is cited from the tweets Trump has made part of his routine.

"That's a good rule for life," Earnest replies instead.

Along with tying up the many loose ends of Obama's presidency, these busy last weeks are devoted to arranging an efficient, secure hand-off to his successor.

"Our job is to turn it over to them in as good a shape as possible," says Obama senior adviser Valerie Jarrett. (All agree that the transition team of President George W. Bush

set a high standard for cooperation and comity that the Obama administration aspires to meet as it vacates.)

But there are other, less weighty tasks. Keenan and his staff must hatch a collection of puns for Obama's eighth annual pardoning of the Thanksgiving turkeys (the Chief Executive can't be expected to wing it).

Then, in a welcome antic moment, the fortunate fowl - Tater and Tot - are seen prior to the ceremony in their luxe DC accommodations: a suite at the Willard Intercontinental hotel.

Mom gives blessing to kids attending church with grandma

DEAR ABBY: I am an atheist. My parents, although raised Presbyterian, never to my knowledge participated in organized religion, so it was not part of my upbringing.

Last year my mom started going to church again, and my kids have been going with her. I've always said they can make their own choices and I'd support them.

Mom is about to go south for the rest of the winter and there's no obvious church member the kids can go with, but they'd like to keep attending. Would it be wrong for me to go with them on Sundays, even though I don't believe in the church doctrine and won't be otherwise involved in the organization?

I'm sure I could be unobtrusive, but I'm not sure what to say if someone asks why I'm there—especially since I'll stop going once my mother returns to town. The kids are tweens and not old enough to go alone. What do you think?

WHAT'S APPROPRIATE?

DEAR WHAT'S: When people see one another in a house of worship, they usually assume that they are equally religious and that's why they're there. However, if you are asked why you're there, all you have to say is that your children enjoy being there and your mother is away, so you brought them. I don't think it's necessary to announce to anyone that you're an atheist.

■■■

DEAR ABBY: My husband is constantly complaining about

the cost of groceries. He recently graduated from college and now works in the corporate world making substantially more than he did before. I'm 16 weeks pregnant, but before I quit my job I was working full time and would buy all the groceries. Now that my husband shares an account with me, he constantly makes me feel bad for buying food.

Abby, I'm not talking about \$300 a week; it's more like \$70 a week for food. Yet he spends twice that amount on beer, video games and lunches for himself. I have told him numerous times how horrible he makes me feel, and have even cried about it, but today he brought up the topic again. He is making me depressed and afraid of buying food for fear of being mocked and "guilted." What am I to do?

THE COST OF GROCERIES

DEAR COST: Your husband should be ashamed of himself. The next time he complains, stand your ground and tell him in no uncertain terms it's time to grow up and cut it out. He's no longer a kid; he's a married man with responsibilities. Those groceries are feeding his wife and child, and you both need all the nourishment you can get right now.

Also, stress for a woman in your expectant condition isn't good for you or the baby. I think it's time the guilt trip worked both ways, don't you?

■■■

DEAR ABBY: Is it appropriate to stay in contact with my former mother-in-law? Her son and I divorced after three years.

DEAR ABBY

By Abigail Van Buren
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE



Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

She was the best thing to come out of the whole fiasco. I don't want to cause friction, but I would like to continue to send birthday and holiday cards.

DIVORCED WITH NO REGRETS

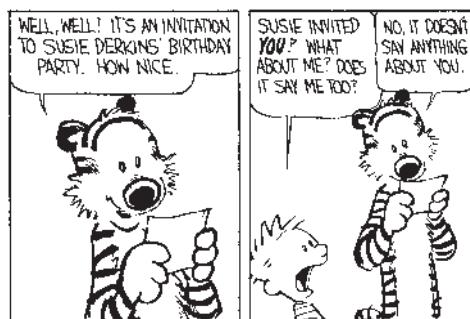
DEAR DIVORCED WITH NO REGRETS: I can't see how a holiday card relationship with your former mother-in-law would cause friction. However, because you are concerned, the person to ask would be the lady herself. If she would welcome the attention from you, then send them.

■■■

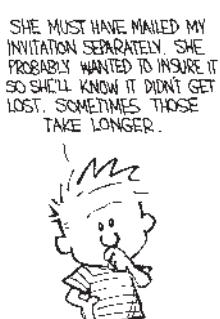
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Pastimes

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By Bill Waterson



Garfield®



By Jim Davis



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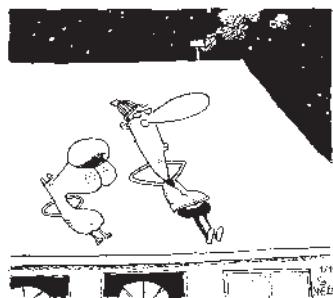


By Bryan Basset

The Duplex



By Glenn McCoy



CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

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			46	Toy block	45 Drawer
			47	name	46 Toy block
			48	Genesis	47 Genesis
			49	garden	48 Marquis
			50	de —	49 De
			51	Teeny	50 Teeny

Solution time: 24 mins.



Yesterday's answer 1-19

For answers to today's crossword, call 1-900-226-5955! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

STUMPED?

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY:

Shawn Johnson, 25; Drea de Matteo, 45; Katey Sagal, 63; Dolly Parton, 71.

Happy Birthday: Avoid being put in a position of uncertainty. Stay focused on what you can do and work diligently to reach your goals without interference. Put your effort into doing things your way and on your own terms. Helping others get ahead while you sit idle will lead to regret. Don't feel guilty, put yourself first and reach for the stars. Your numbers are 5, 16, 23, 30, 36, 43, 45.

ARIES (March 21-April 19): You'll be inclined to take on too much. An honest assessment followed by a helpful suggestion will save you from getting in over your head. You will gain through listening and observation. Travel delays and red tape can be expected. **★★★**

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): You'll learn a lot from those you choose to help. Sharing resources and perspectives will be the order of the day. Participate in events that allow you to use your skills and meet new people. Trust your instincts. **★★★**

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Don't let anyone take advantage of you. You will be subject to scrutiny if you aren't forthcoming about what you really want. Be true to yourself and follow your dream instead of investing in someone else's gain. **★★★★**

CANCER (June 21-July 22): Emotional spending will be your downfall. You cannot buy love, but offering your time, help and understanding will encourage a better relationship with someone who is prone to taking ad-

vantage of you. Follow your instincts and you'll come out on top. **★★**

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Focus on stabilizing your position or making the most of your chances to advance. Refuse to let an emotional matter at home stop you from being productive or accomplishing what's expected of you. **★★**

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Don't underestimate your competition or someone will try to take advantage of you. The demands will only pile up further if you give in. Speak up if there is something you cannot or do not want to do. Offer alternative suggestions. **★★★★**

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Look for creative alternatives when it comes to entertainment or dealing with peers, children or an investment that can change your future. Impulsive action will be to your detriment. Bide your time and live within your means. **★★★**

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Don't share your personal secrets. Stick close to home and put your energy into personal gains and important relationships. Romance is highlighted along with physical alterations that make you look better and your surroundings more comfortable. **★★★**

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Inch forward with a goal in mind, but don't take on so much that you cannot complete your mission. Balance, integrity and sticking to what's affordable will be your best ways to make progress. Someone you count on will disappoint you. **★★★★**

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Find new ways to use your knowledge, experience and skills to get ahead financially. Deal with institutions, agencies or whoever can offer you the information you require to raise your income and your status. **★★**

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Emotional matters will escalate if money is involved. Avoid joint ventures or impulsive spending. Implement cost-saving changes to help cut your costs. A smart money maneuver will ease your stress. A settlement, gift or unexpected offer looks promising. **★★★★★**

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): Money, legal, contractual and medical matters will be difficult to deal with if you let your emotions interfere. Separate your needs from what's best for everyone involved, and make a concerted effort to be fair and do what's right. **★★★★**

Birthday Baby: You are progressive, eager and steadfast. You are spontaneous and driven. Eugenia's website—eugenialast.com, Eugenia's android app @ <http://bit.ly/exhoro> and join Eugenia on twitter/facebook/linkedin.

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EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD
IN ASTROLOGY

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally and even backward. Find them, circle each letter of the word and strike it off the list. The leftover letters spell the WONDERWORD.

WONDERWORD®

By DAVID
QUELLET

LEONARD COHEN (1934-2016)

Solution: 10 letters

K	S	A	R	C	S	M	O	N	T	R	E	A
R	N	A	C	N	R	E	T	N	I	W	C	E
O	O	C	M	R	T	H	N	S	A	E	L	N
Y	I	C	J	E	O	H	S	O	E	L	E	N
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D	O	F	A	B	M	R	T	N	O	S	N	E
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N	A	C	D	F	R	A	G	A	L	O	O	E
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C	A	S	S	I	U	S	J	U	J	A	T	E
H	M	E	M	O	R	I	E	S	O	L	O	N

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Adam, Amen, Anthem, Arc, Banjo, Baritone, Bass, Blessed, Breeze, Buckskin, Canadian, Cassius, Collections, Dominique, Faith, Future, Greece, Guests, Guitar, Joan, Lady Midnight, Lorca, Marianne, Memories, Memory, Montreal, New York, Painter, Poet, Quebec, Raincoat, Rebecca, Soft Rock, So Long, Songs, Suzanne, Vocals, Winter, Writer
Yesterday's Answer: **Televised**

To purchase the **WONDERWORD MILLENNIUM SERIES #1 or #2**, order online at www.WonderWordBooks.com. (Contains 100 puzzles.)

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku

By Dave Green

2	9		7		6
			1	5	
3					1
5		9			
6			8		3
7				6	
9	2	3	8	7	4
4	3	5	6	8	2
5	7	6	4	9	3

Difficulty Level ★★★

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's SUDOKU Answer

2	4	1	6	3	8	7	5	9
5	8	3	7	9	1	2	6	4
6	9	7	4					

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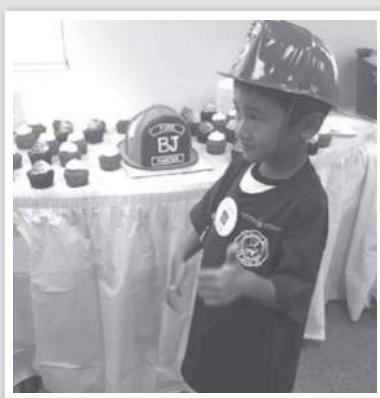
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*"I want to be a firefighter!"
BJ Belacora, 6 yrs.*

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**IN THE SUPERIOR COURT
OF THE
COMMONWEALTH OF THE
NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS**

In the Matter of the) FCD-CN
Petitioner for the Change) CIVIL ACTION
of Name of:) NO. 17-0017
J.J.H. L.)) NOTICE OF
Legal Name of) HEARING
Minor Child))
By))
Charize Quitugua Terlaje))
Petitioner (s))

Notice is hereby given that the above-entitled matter is set for a hearing on Feb. 23, 2017 at 10:30am in Courtroom 205A before the Honorable Kenneth L. Govendo. Dated this 11th day of January, 2017. Patrick Diaz Clerk of Court /s/ Deputy Clerk of Court

WHATZIT Solution: A bird in the hand is worth two in the bush

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Dragic scores 21 and Heat stun Rockets, 109-103



MIAMI (AP)—The way the Miami Heat saw it, this was a reward.

Goran Dragic had 21 points and eight assists, Wayne Ellington scored 18 off the bench and the Heat—saddled with one of the worst records in the NBA—overcame another triple-double from James Harden to beat the Houston Rockets 109-103 on Tuesday night.

Dion Waiters scored 17, Tyler Johnson had 16 and James Johnson added 15 for the Heat, who trailed by a point midway through the fourth quarter before putting the game away with a 20-5 run.

“I’m glad to see our guys get rewarded finally for all the work, but that doesn’t guarantee anything,” Heat coach Erik Spoelstra said. “We talk about it all the time. You keep on putting in deposits, to the team, to the work, continue to work to get better ... trust that process.”

Harden had 40 points, 12 rebounds and 10 assists for the Rockets (32-12), his 13th triple-double of the season. He shot 12 for 30 from the field and got his triple-double with an assist to Montrezl Harrell with 12.6 seconds left, an uncontested dunk with the Heat simply waiting for the clock to run out.

Harrell had 13 points for the Rockets, who got 12 from Patrick Beverley.

“They played hard and they beat us,” Houston coach Mike D’Antoni said. “There’s not much else to say.”

Hassan Whiteside added 14 points and 15 rebounds for Miami in a game that had 19 lead changes and 15 ties.

Dragic found Ellington for a corner 3 with 1:41 left to give Miami an 11-point lead—the largest either team had to that point. The Rockets turned it over on their next possession,

James Johnson got a runoff dunk and the Heat (12-30) soon finished off the win.

“We got open shots. We just missed them,” Harden said. “We gave ourselves a chance, especially in that third quarter. Fourth quarter we didn’t play as well as we need to.”

Raptors 119, Nets 109

In New York, DeMar DeRozan had 36 points and 11 rebounds while Cory Joseph scored a career-high 33 as Toronto beat free-falling Brooklyn.

Toronto won its fourth straight game and extended Brooklyn’s losing streak to 11 in a row. The Nets have not won since Dec. 26.

Terrence Ross added 15 points for the Raptors, who opened the game with an 11-0 run but fell behind after the first quarter.

Brook Lopez had 28 points for the Nets.

Mavericks 99, Bulls 98

In Chicago, Wesley Matthews made a go-ahead 3-pointer from the wing with 12 seconds left as Dallas beat Chicago for its first three-game winning streak of the season.

Six players scored in double figures for the Mavericks, including all five starters. Harrison Barnes had 20 points, Seth Curry added 18 and Dirk Nowitzki finished with 10 points and 10 rebounds.

Dallas trailed 98-96 after Jimmy Butler made a long jumper over Matthews with 23 seconds left but Mavericks coach Rick Carlisle decided against a timeout and Deron Williams drove into the lane before kicking out to Matthews for the 3.

Chicago had one last chance but Dwyane Wade missed a potential game-winning jumper from the corner on his 35th birthday as time expired.

Butler finished with 24

Miami Heat guard Goran Dragic, right, goes up for a shot against Houston Rockets forward Trevor Ariza during the second half of an NBA basketball game, Tuesday, Jan. 17, 2017, in Miami.

points, 12 assists and nine rebounds for the Bulls, who had won two in a row. Robin Lopez scored 21, and Wade had 17 on 8-for-21 shooting.

Spurs 122, Timberwolves 114

In San Antonio, Kawhi Leonard had 34 points as San Antonio overcame a strong start by Minnesota.

Leonard’s fourth straight 30-point game helped him become the first San Antonio player to score 950 points in the first half of a season since Tim Duncan in 2003.

Coming off a career-high 38 on Saturday against Phoenix in Mexico City, Leonard was 12 for 17 from the field.

LaMarcus Aldridge added 29 points on 12-for-20 shooting, spoiling Minnesota coach Tom Thibodeau’s 59th birthday.

San Antonio had difficulty with Minnesota’s explosive starting lineup. Karl-Anthony Towns had 27 points and 16 rebounds, and Ricky Rubio added 21 points and 14 assists.

Nuggets 127, Lakers 121

In Los Angeles, Nikola Jokic had 29 points and 15 rebounds as Denver withstood a furious late rally by Los Angeles.

Denver led by 19 late in the



third quarter only to see the Lakers close to 120-119 with under two minutes to play.

Wilson Chandler responded with a dunk for the Nuggets and scored five points in the fi-

nal 1:40, sending Los Angeles to its fifth consecutive defeat.

Will Barton added 26 points and eight assists to help the Nuggets win their third straight. Kenneth Faried had

20 points and seven rebounds.

Lou Williams scored 24 points and Nick Young had 22 for the struggling Lakers, who have won just five of their last 26 games.

Even as Knicks tumble again, Carmelo wants to be in New York

NEW YORK (AP)—Carmelo Anthony still believes the Knicks can win and still wants to be in New York when they do.

Another January collapse makes it easier to wonder if either will happen.

The Knicks have fallen off the playoff pace, again proving they can win headlines but not games. It seems like the same old story in New York, even though Anthony still thinks they can change the ending.

“Yeah, we will,” he said. “I still believe.”

He reiterated that Tuesday

in a meeting with Phil Jackson, telling the Knicks president of basketball operations that he wanted to remain with the team, according to a person with knowledge of the discussion.

The question is how much Jackson still wants him.

A Fanragsports.com piece by Charley Rosen last week was heavily critical of Anthony, saying his legs are “going, going, almost gone” and that “the only sure thing is that Car-

melo Anthony has outlived his usefulness in New York.”

Criticism of Anthony is nothing new, but this came from a longtime confidant and former assistant coach of Jackson, leading to speculation that those were the same thoughts as the Knicks executive.

Anthony said Sunday after a loss in Toronto that maybe he needed to speak to Jackson if that’s the way he felt, but he said Monday he didn’t need a discussion to get any clarity.

“My clarity is playing ball right now and getting some wins,” he said.

Still, they met Tuesday during the team’s off day, the person confirmed to The Associated Press on condition of anonymity because details were to remain private. The meeting was first reported by ESPN.

Anthony has a rarely given no-trade clause in his contract and would have to agree to any deal. It wouldn’t be easy to find one, given the 32-year-old’s contract and age, and Rosen said it was understood

that Anthony would agree to a trade only to the Cavaliers or Clippers.

But Anthony insists he wants to stay in New York, even while doing so seems to ensure he will retire without an NBA championship.

“I think I’ve proven that,” Anthony said. “I don’t have to speak on that. I think I’ve proven that over the years, day in and day out, regardless of what’s going on that’s surrounding this team, any talk, anything.”

That was Monday after a 108-107 loss to Atlanta, the Knicks’ 11th in 13 games. They began the second half of their schedule at 18-24 ahead of a difficult back-to-back against Boston and Washington, two of the hottest teams in the Eastern Conference, setting up what seems a critical point if they are going to turn things around.

They have missed the playoffs in each of Jackson’s two full seasons since arriving in 2014 but believed that could

change when they traded for Derrick Rose and signed veterans Joakim Noah, Courtney Lee and Brandon Jennings.

But they haven’t been able to halt the same kind of January slide that knocked the Knicks out of playoff contention and led to Derek Fisher’s firing last year, and the losing and chaos in the newcomers’ organization seems to be weighing on them.

Rose skipped a game without even telling the team last week, saying he returned to Chicago for family reasons. Lee was dropped from the starting lineup Monday as coach Jeff Hornacek tried to shake things up and Jennings was asked afterward if the losses were getting more frustrating.

“Yeah, because we should be doing something, we could be doing something special here,” he said.

They remain short-handed, with forward Kristaps Porzingis sidelined by a sore left Achilles tendon. Perhaps he can return soon and help stop the skid.

Streaking LA Clippers down another All-Star with Paul out

LOS ANGELES (AP)—The streaking Clippers are down another All-Star.

Chris Paul will undergo surgery on Wednesday to repair a torn ligament in his left thumb and is expected to miss six to eight weeks.

The team said Tuesday its veteran point guard will continue to undergo treatment and evaluation by the club’s medical staff.

Paul was injured on a first-half play involving Oklahoma City’s Russell Westbrook in Monday night’s victory. Paul didn’t return in the second half.

Paul is averaging 17.5 points, 9.7 assists and 5.3 rebounds, and leads the NBA

Cowboys delay talk of Romo's future, likely knowing answer



FRISCO, Texas
(AP)—Those closest to Tony Romo on the Cowboys aren't ready to discuss the future of the Dallas quarterback, probably because they know the likely final answer.

After 156 games and franchise bests of 34,183 yards passing and 248 touchdowns, Romo's career in Dallas appears to be over after he lost the job he held for 10 years to rookie sensation Dak Prescott following a preseason back injury.

The question is, what's next?

"There's several cards to be played," owner and general manager Jerry Jones said on his radio show Tuesday. "Don't think for one minute if you see something written or something said about what and where Romo is going to be relative to our team that there's any credibility to it."

"There's only one that can make that decision, and there's been no decision made."

Whether it's a trade or release, Romo figures to have at least some say in where he goes because of his strong relationship with the Jones family and coach Jason Garrett. And logic says it will be a playoff contender needing a quarterback.

Meantime, it's hard to think about a Romo-less Dallas roster for Garrett, seen frequently at sporting events with Romo during the offseason in recent years. He didn't want to discuss the specifics of the 36-year-old's future.

"We certainly want the best for him, whether he is here or whether he is somewhere else," Garrett said Monday. "He has been such an inspirational guy to me and everybody who has been fortunate enough to be around him. So good things will happen for Tony Romo. A lot of things will be discussed over the next few weeks."

Tight end Jason Witten came into the NFL with Romo in 2003 and is his best friend on the team. Romo and Witten didn't appear in the locker room a day after a 34-31 playoff loss to Green Bay. But immediately after the Packers won, Witten was asked whether his friend had played his final game for the Cowboys and he recalled the only time Romo spoke publicly all season, when he read a five-minute statement that conceded the job to Prescott and didn't take questions.

"I'm sure in the next few weeks we'll have a time to talk," Witten said. "But I'm proud of him and how he handled that. Going back to when he had his press conference and the way he was able



AP
In this Jan. 1, 2017, file photo, Dallas Cowboys' Tony Romo smiles on the bench during the second half of an NFL football game against the Philadelphia Eagles in Philadelphia.

ning streak with Prescott when Romo was ready to return after breaking a bone in his back in the third preseason game.

"So when he had his opportunities based on the merits, there's a compelling argument to be made that that guy should be your quarterback," Garrett said. "What happened when Tony got hurt, Dak stepped in and this team got going. It went on a run, and what we needed to do was somehow, somehow stay on that run."

Prescott likely eliminated any lingering doubt by leading the Cowboys back from 18- and 15-point deficits, the latter in the fourth quarter, against the Packers. Dallas tied the score twice in the final 4:08.

Romo made his only appearance in the regular-season finale at Philadelphia when the Cowboys already had home-field advantage locked up in the NFC playoffs. The four-time Pro Bowler led a touchdown drive in his only series.

"I really believe that Tony Romo will play in a Super Bowl," Jones said. "Now try that one on. I know that if he's healthy enough, he'll be in a Super Bowl. I strongly believe that."

Jones just didn't say with which team.

to kind of take the lead and eliminate the distraction for our football team. That wasn't easy to do. I think we're all better because of that."

After declining to discuss

the Prescott-Romo decision in detail all season, Garrett finally opened up when the season was over.

Garrett, who was Romo's offensive coordinator for 3 1/2

seasons before taking over as head coach, said the difficulty was realizing how successful Romo was in the previous two seasons when he wasn't out with a twice-broken collar-

bone in 2015.

Romo was 16-5 in his final 21 starts, including two playoff games in 2014. But the Cowboys were in the middle of a team-record 11-game win-

thing in regards to professional sports. I think that's why often times you see great players move around from team to team.

"And I definitely don't want that to be his story. I am sure he doesn't want that to be his story. So, he has to address these things that put him and us in positions from time to time, in settings such as this, where it needs to be addressed."

Tomlin didn't outline the internal discipline Brown faces other than to say it will not affect his availability this weekend.

New England (15-2) pulled away from the Steelers (13-5) in the second half of a 27-16 victory in Pittsburgh on Oct. 23, a game Roethlisberger missed while recovering from surgery on his left knee.

Roethlisberger will be around this time. And so will Brown, who will almost certainly have his phone's camera turned off late Sunday evening regardless of the outcome.

"He has to grow from this," Tomlin said. "He has to."

Tomlin: Brown 'foolish' to livestream postgame locker room

PITTSBURGH (AP)—The father in Mike Tomlin regrets the language he used to describe the New England Patriots during the postgame speech Pittsburgh Steelers wide receiver Antonio Brown opted to livestream on social media after a taut playoff victory over Kansas City.

The coach in Tomlin has just as big an issue with one of his team's biggest stars forcing the Steelers to talk about something other than trying to find a way to finally beat Tom Brady when it counts.

A characteristically blunt Tomlin called Brown's decision to broadcast to the world more than 17 minutes of Pittsburgh's giddy locker room celebration—a move that caught Tomlin using a handful of profanities—"foolish," "selfish" and "inconsiderate."

"Not only is it a violation of our policy, it's a violation of league policy, both of which he knows," Tomlin said Tuesday.

"So there are consequences to be dealt with from his perspective. We will punish him. We won't punish us."

Tomlin took responsibility for his choice of words, though he was unaware of being filmed as he spoke.

During Tomlin's post-game remarks, he attached an expletive to the Patriots, who earned a full day's head start on preparing for the Steelers by virtue of beating Houston on Saturday night, 24 hours before Pittsburgh outlasted Kansas City 18-16.

"The responsibility associated with being in this thing, just from a role model standpoint, it's something that I personally embrace," Tomlin said.

"It's something that we as a team and organization embrace. So that's why the language, specifically, in terms of the content, is regrettable."

So, too, is the action of the talented if sporadically diva-like Brown. The former sixth-round pick has evolved from a raw project into one of the NFL's best wide receivers.

This season he became only the second player in league history to post four consecutive 100-catch seasons.

His work ethic is universal-

ly lauded even as his Q-rating has skyrocketed. Brown can be found on TV pitching everything from soda to credit cards to video games.

The player who—for reasons he hasn't yet disclosed—occasionally refers to himself as "Ronald" also has a devoted social media presence, with more than 1.5 million following on Instagram and an additional 650,000 on Facebook, many of whom got an eyeful and an earful as the Steelers celebrated their first trip to the AFC title game in six years.

While Tomlin has "very little concern" about the content of the video, he has plenty of concern over Brown's lack of judgment.

"You wear on your teammates when they routinely have to answer questions about things that aren't preparation or football-related," Tomlin said.

"It's our desire for him and for everyone to be great teammates, as well as great players. He is a great player. He is a hardworking player. He is respected, largely, in the lock-

er room for those things. But incidences such as this don't help him in that regard."

The Steelers have grown accustomed to Brown's flights of fancy, whether it's posing for the Mannequin challenge while meeting with reporters, wearing eye-opening (and fine threatening) cleats or doing over-the-top touchdown celebrations.

The fallout this time around has been mixed. Long snapper Greg Warren said Monday that "AB is AB, he can do what he wants to do."

Ben Roethlisberger expressed disappointment in Brown during the quarterback's weekly appearance on 93.7 The Fan.

Either way, the fact that both were forced to respond to questions about Brown before the biggest game of the season only reinforces Tomlin's point, though Tomlin stressed that Brown is hardly the only athlete capable of becoming a distraction.

"Those things don't apply exclusively to Antonio," Tomlin said. "It's a global

Federer reaches 3rd round in return at Australian Open



**M E L -
BOURNE,
Australia**

(AP)—Roger Federer relied on his Grand Slam experience during the most important points to beat Noah Rubin 7-5, 6-3, 7-6 (3) on Wednesday, maintaining his record of never failing to reach the third round at the 18 Australian Opens he's contested.

After back-to-back wins over qualifiers, the degree of difficulty in his comeback from a six-month injury lay-off will increase exponentially. Next up he faces former Wimbledon champion Tomas Berdych, who had a 6-3, 7-6 (6), 6-2 win over Ryan Harrison.

Also looming, potentially, is No. 5 Kei Nishikori, the 2014 U.S. Open finalist, who set up a third-round match against Lukas Lacko with a 6-3, 6-4, 6-3 win over Jeremy Chardy.

Federer didn't play after his semifinal exit at Wimbledon last year, resting his injured left knee. He returned at the Hopman Cup exhibition in Perth this month, and opened



which is what I need."

U.S. Open champion Stan Wawrinka advanced 6-3, 6-4, 6-4 over Steve Johnson, and No. 12 Jo-Wilfried Tsonga beat Dusan Lajovic 6-2, 6-2, 6-3.

Defending champion Angelique Kerber celebrated her 29th birthday with a 6-2, 6-7 (3), 6-2 second-round win over Stefanie Voegele.

The crowd sang her "Happy Birthday," although she wasn't entirely on song. The No. 1-ranked Kerber angrily swiped her racket in the second set in a burst of frustration that momentarily threw her off her game.

She had two double-faults in the tiebreaker, as Witthoeft leveled the match, but regained control in the third.

After skewing a forehand wide on match point, Witthoeft went to the net and gave her fellow German a kiss on each cheek. Kerber can celebrate, then get back to work on Friday against Kristyna Pliskova, who beat No. 27 Irina-Camelia Begu 6-4, 7-6 (8). Pliskova's twin sister, Karolina, lost the U.S. Open final to Kerber.

"It's an honor and privilege to start that young," she added, laughing, "and play this old."

Venus Williams had to field questions about getting older after energetic performance in her 6-3, 6-2 second-round win over Stefanie Voegele.

The 36-year-old, seven-time singles major winner played the first of her record 73 Grand Slam tournaments at the French Open in 1997. Back then, she got to play against the likes of Steffi Graf and Martina Navratilova.

"It's an honor and privilege to start that young," she added, laughing, "and play this old."

Venus and Serena Williams, who have won 14 major doubles titles together, withdrew from a scheduled first-round doubles match later Wednesday, citing an injury to Venus' right elbow.

Venus thought she could manage the injury and play both singles and doubles, but decided she couldn't after her singles match went 83 minutes.

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was held to three field goals, while Saipan Apparel was on target, drilling one shot after another. Veteran Ed Diaz led Saipan Apparel's strong finish after making 8 points in overtime.

Diaz led Saipan Apparel's balance scoring with his 24 points. Norita had 19, Kelvin Fitial contributed 16, and Derrick Rangamar and Ben Lisua chipped in 15 and 14, respectively.

As for Ace Hardware's side, Ken Viray carried the load for the losing team after sizzling for 37 points. Ace Hardware played without one of its scorers—Sid Quan.

Viray started his hot shooting with back-to-back triples in the first quarter, which ended

with Ace Hardware ahead, 21-16. Viray finished the opening canto with 11 points and added 10 more in the second to keep his team in front at the break, 38-34.

Viray continued to lift Ace Hardware on his shoulders, while Saipan Apparel spread the wealth in the third to force a standoff, 51-51, entering the fourth quarter. The game remained close in the final canto with Ace staying in the match by burying four straight triples midway and Marvin Rabauliman's 5 consecutive points in the closing minutes. However, the fourth canto belonged to Norita as he canned the equalizer.

Meanwhile, the do-or-die game between Ace Hardware and Duenas Compound will be played this Saturday at 7pm, while Game 2, if necessary, is scheduled for Jan. 27 at the same start time.

Saipan Apparel 95 – Diaz 24, Norita 19, Fitial 16, Rangamar 15, Lisua 14, Teregeyo 4, Lizama 2, Andrew 1.

Ace Hardware 81 – Viray 37, Brennan 10, Sablan 8, Rabauliman 8, Evans 7, Younis 4, Lauron 4, Rosario 2.

Scoring by quarters: 16-21, 34-38, 51-51, 74-74, 95-81 (OT).

McDonald's also recovered from a slow start to notch its second win in as many games and tie TanHoldings and CUC for the lead in Pool A. Docomo fell to 1-1 mark.

McDonald's was held to five field goals in the first quarter to trail, 10-13, and still could not get gain cushion in the second, which ended in a deadlock, 29-29.

McDonald's then got the needed break in the third when it held Docomo to 4 points, while registering 11 to take the lead, entering the final canto. McDonald's went on to save its best for last, scoring 23 points to finish off Docomo.

Michael Achas paced McDonald's with his 16 points, while Robert Sanciangco had 13 for Docomo.

First Game
McDonald's 63 – Mi. Achas 14, Macaranas 10, J. Achas 10, Gaspar 6, Gapor 6, Mc. Achas 5, C. Achas 2.

Docomo 56 – Sanciangco 13, Hayes 11, Manibusan 8, Griffin 6, Sablan 5, Sanchez 5, Mendiola 4, White 3, Kaipat 1.

Scoring by quarters: 11-13, 29-29, 40-33, 63-56.

Second Game

Joeten 85 – Devero 36, Fitial 10, Lauron 9, Rogolifo 8, Tobias 5, Chariton 4, Sambile 4, Bautista 3.

Best Deal/RNV 77 – R. Rueda 39, Cabalquinto 10, Baul 6, Barrios 5, Corong 5, Jumaquio 2, Odicita 2, J. Rue- da 2.

Scoring by quarters: 22-29, 44-42, 61-58, 85-77.

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eten in the third quarter and got enough help from his teammates to keep their team in front, 61-58. Best Deal/RNV failed to reclaim the upper hand in the third canto despite the return of Rueda, who was held to one field goal and 4 points in the penultimate quarter.

Rueda tried to rally back Best Deal/RNV, but this time failed to hit basket in streaks, while Devero continued to do the damage for Joeten. Rueda and Devero top-scored for their respective teams with the former tallying 39 and the latter posting 36.

Meanwhile, in the first game, McDonald's defeated Docomo, 63-56.

But Federer upped the tempo, winning four of the last five games to force a tiebreaker, which he dominated.

"I definitely got lucky winning that third set. He had a couple of set points on my serve," Federer said. There were, "a lot of difficult points,

ROTA

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Guam brought two teams to Saipan for the third edition of the annual event with both squads beating the Knights. Guam crushed the Knights in the matua (12 to 14 age group) division match, 44-0, while the visitors' high school crew also eased past the Knights, 36-6. Guam's selection squads were made up of hand-picked players, while the Knights had the core of Mt. Carmel School team and some players from other schools.

Guam's high school selection drew touchdowns from Gabriel Stanley (two), Alfredo Blas, Isaiah Macias, and Tyler Pangelinan to beat the Knights, whose lone TD came from Anthony Quituga.

Despite the loss, the Knights were thankful for the opportunity to play against Guam in the high school division for the first time.

"The high school team shows a lot of promise. Head coach Vaeotootoo Failauga Jr. and coach Joe Ocampo got a great group of kids to work with. I am confident that the team will learn from this loss and improve its chances for a stronger performance next time around," Blanco said.

The CFL official added both teams will continue training and are excited to battle Guam again.

"Hopefully, we could get the matua season up and running. Guam is already making plans for the next event so the kids are looking forward to that as well," Blanco said.

TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES

NBA STANDINGS

EASTERN CONFERENCE

	W	L	Pct	GB
Toronto	28	13	.683	—
Boston	26	15	.634	2
New York	18	24	.429	10½
Philadelphia	13	26	.333	14
Brooklyn	8	33	.195	20

Southeast Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Atlanta	24	17	.585	—
Washington	21	19	.525	2½
Charlotte	20	21	.488	4
Orlando	17	26	.395	8
Miami	12	30	.286	12½

Central Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Cleveland	29	11	.725	—
Indiana	21	19	.525	8
Milwaukee	20	20	.500	9
Chicago	21	22	.488	9½
Detroit	19	24	.442	11½

NBA LEADERS

Scoring	G	FG	FT	PTS	Avg
Westbrook, OKC	43	.432	.369	1321	30.7
Davis, NOR	39	.408	.293	1130	29.0
Harden, HOU	43	.354	.382	1223	28.4
Thomas, BOS	37	.329	.283	1051	28.4
Cousins, SAC	39	.365	.294	1094	28.1
DeRozan, TOR	40	.404	.300	1122	28.0
Lillard, POR	38	.324	.251	996	26.2
Durant, GOL	40	.361	.228	1027	25.7
James, CLE	37	.349	.185	949	25.6
Butler, CHI	40	.307	.330	994	24.8
Leonard, SAN	38	.306	.245	935	24.6
Curry, GOL	40	.327	.179	984	24.6
Irving, CLE	35	.305	.136	827	23.6
McCullom, POR	43	.380	.140	1011	23.5
Antetokounmpo, MIL	39	.333	.222	914	23.4
Walker, CHA	40	.328	.152	919	23.0
Wall, WAS	38	.322	.183	870	22.9
Beal, WAS	36	.280	.145	810	22.5
Anthony, NYK	41	.324	.182	911	22.2
Lowry, TOR	40	.282	.193	888	22.2

Rebounds

	G	OFF	DEF	TOT	Avg
Whiteside, MIA	37	145</			

3rd Marianas Friendship Bowl



PHOTOS By ROSELYN B. MONROYO

The Knights' N-Nes Siech, right, runs after an interception, while Alvin Borja, left, follows him and a player from Guam's selection team is behind during the second quarter of the high school division game in the 3rd Marianas Friendship Bowl held last Saturday at the CPA Airport Field.



A player from the Guam selection tries to run away from Knights defenders.



A player from the Guam selection team pulls down the shirt of Knights quarterback Daniel Calvo.



Skerei Neldreyton loses his balance as a player from the Guam selection team pins him down.



A player from the Guam selection team tackles a Knights player.



Guam selection team players and the Knights line up for the next play.



Skerei Neldreyton runs with the ball, while his teammates block Guam selection team defenders.



Knights quarterback Daniel Calvo catches the ball.



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21 and Heat
stun Rockets,
109-103**

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**Cowboys delay
talk of Romo's
future, likely
knowing answer**

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SAIPAN TRIBUNE

Joeten hands Best Deal/RNV 3rd straight loss

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Joeten Enterprises survived Best Deal/RNV Construction's strong start to earn an 85-77 win in their game in the 2017 JEM Company Ltd./Mobil Customer Appreciation Basketball League last Tuesday at the Gillette Multipurpose Gymnasium.

 The win was the first for Joeten, which dropped its debut to Commonwealth Utilities Corp. last week, while the loss was third in as many matches for Best Deal/RNV.

Best Deal/RNV boosted its chances to break into the win column after drawing an explosive start from Ronald Rueda. He had the team's first 6 points and scored 13 straight points midway in the opening canto, turning a 14-16 deficit to a 29-22 advantage at the end of that period.

Best Deal/RNV went on to lead by as much as 11, 33-22, as Rueda scored the team's first 4 points in the opening minute of the second



ROSELYN B. MONROYO
Joeten Enterprises' Ivan Devero challenges the defense of Best Deal/RNV Construction's Jojit Jumaquio during the second quarter of their game in the JEM/Mobil caging last Tuesday at the Gillette Multipurpose Gymnasium.

quarter. A visibly tired Rueda then asked for a breather and that's when Best Deal/RNV started to lose the driver's seat, while Ivan Devero took

charge for Joeten. The former Marianas High School standout scored 12 points in the second frame, including Joeten's last 10 markers in

the first half to put his team on top at the break, 44-42.

Devero continued to lift Jo-

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Saipan Apparel, Ol'Aces near finals



ROSELYN B. MONROYO

The Ol'Aces Gino Libuw drives baseline against 5-Star Construction's Francis Estanislao, right, and Michael Cabanas, during an earlier playoff game in the MIBF outdoor league at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium. The Ol'Aces are a win away from advancing to the finals after prevailing in their first two matches in the playoff round.

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Saipan Apparel and the Ol'Aces stepped closer to a finals stint in the Mariana Islands Basketball Federation's Inaugural Men's Outdoor League after posting contrasting wins last Tuesday at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

The Ol'Aces moved one victory away from advancing

to the championship round after winning via forfeit against Duenas Compound, which was a no-show in the scheduled second Final Four game. Duenas Compound argued it did not know the team was set to play last Tuesday, but league organizers insisted the squad was informed of the schedule right after its victory against San Antonio Patriots last week. Duenas Compound eventually accepted the loss and would need to win against Ace Hardware to keep its finals hopes alive.

While the Ol'Aces got a free victory, Saipan Apparel labored for its 95-81 overtime triumph versus Ace Hardware in the first game of the double-elimination Final Four round.

Saipan Apparel caught fire in the extension, exploding for 21 points for the 14-point winning margin.

Earlier in regulation, Jerome Norita knocked in the game-tying triple with a minute and change left in the fourth quarter. The opposing teams then traded misses in the remaining minutes of the final canto, bringing the game into overtime.

In the extra period, Ace Hardware often misfired and

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Rota eyed to host Marianas Bowl



ROSELYN B. MONROYO

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REPORTER

With the 3rd Marianas Friendship Bowl now in the books, organizers of the annual event has started planning the next competition and is eyeing Rota as the venue for 2018.

"We are hoping to have the games in a neutral ground," said Guam's Joey Guerrero, who coordinated last Saturday's event held at the CPA Airport Field with Commonwealth Football League's John Blanco and other CFL officials.

"We want to continue the sportsmanship, camaraderie, and competition between Guam and CNMI players. We aim to continue provid-



ing our players exposure in the sport and help them improve by allowing them to play as many games as they can, especially the new players from Saipan," Guerrero added.

The Island Eagles head coach also said it will be great to have Rota residents watch football games and holding matches there would be easier if they could find generous sponsors.

"The previous matches in the Marianas Bowl will not be made possible without our sponsors. I hope we could have more sponsors so we can bring the games on Rota," Guerrero said.

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Guam and Knights players are in formation getting ready for the former's first down during the second quarter of the high school division game in the 3rd Marianas Friendship Bowl held last Saturday at the CPA Airport Field.